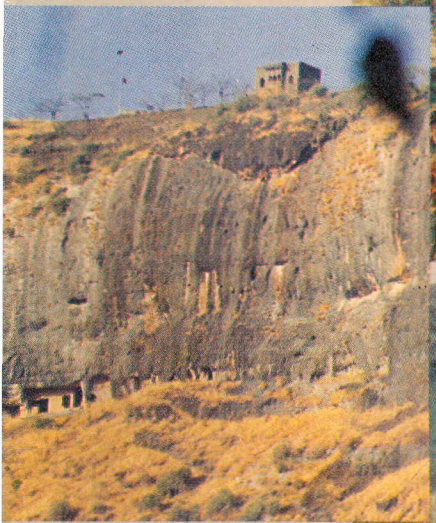


FORTS OF MAHARASHTRA

M.S. Naravane



The forts of Maharashtra have a special place in the ethos of not only the Marathas but all Indians. Militarily and politically important in varying degrees, their unifying influence was vital and they saw the emergence of a new spirit of freedom under Shivaji. It is truly sad that many have left no trace of their existence and many more are fast going to ruins. It is very necessary to preserve all available information about this priceless heritage.

Although there is a vast amount of literature on Medieval Maratha history, very little is available specifically relating to the forts. They get mentioned almost incidentally, as places where some notable event took place. The few books that are available deal mainly with forts of Western Maharashtra and the core of Shivaji's kingdom. The Gazetteers, too, do not cover all the forts or give their location and description with as much detail as is possible. In any case, there is no single volume covering all the forts located within the present boundaries of Maharashtra.

The present work is an attempt to fill this gap. It covers all the forts of Maharashtra in a systematised manner and under standardised headings. The role of forts, often exaggerated, is re-examined with specific reference to the politico-strategical, strategical, tactical and administrative fields. The period covered is mainly 1600 to 1800 A.D.

The book will appeal both to casual reader and the researcher, and promises to be an important source of reference.

ISBN 81-7024-696-2

Do,

Dr. Shrikant Paranjpe,

With all good wishes,

Hemant / Narasimh

Pune, 1 May 95

FORTS OF MAHARASHTRA

FORTS OF MAHARASHTRA

Wing Commander (Retd.)

Dr. M.S. Naravane

M.Sc., Ph.D.

APH PUBLISHING CORPORATION
5, ANSARI ROAD, DARYA GANJ,
NEW DELHI - 110 002

Published by :

S.B. Nangia

for APH Publishing Corporation

5, Ansari Road,

Darya Ganj

New Delhi - 110 002

Tele. 3274050, 3285807

ISBN 81-7024-696-2

1995

© **Author**

Typesetting by :

Computer Codes

Virat Bhawan, Comml. Complex,

Mukerjee Nagar, Delhi - 110 009

Phone : 7241200

Printed at :

Efficient Offset Printers,

New Delhi

To the sacred memory of
Babuji, Bai,
and
Dada, Ai,
this book is respectfully dedicated.

CHIEF MINISTER

Mantralaya, Bombay 400 032

Date 5-2-94



MAHARASHTRA

FOREWORD

It gives me great pleasure in writing this Foreword to Wing Commander (Retd.), Dr. M.S. Naravane's book on the Forts of Maharashtra. As with many of us, his interest in history was nourished in childhood on stories of Shivaji and his generals and forts. It redounds to his credit that he should have kept alive his interest during service with the Indian Air Force, and should have pursued it after retirement and obtained a Ph.D. degree.

Forts are our priceless national heritage. This book breaks much fresh ground in listing all the available information about the forts in one volume, and more so in doing it in a systematic and well-thought-out manner. His original contribution to the classification and study of forts and their impact will, I am sure, spur further study and research. As it is, the book promises to be a valuable primary reference work.

In an age when our primary task is to build a strong and united nation, let us take inspiration from the forts of Maharashtra which played such an important role in a similar task in an era gone by.

(Sharad Pawar)

1892
1893

1894
1895
1896
1897
1898
1899
1900

1901
1902
1903
1904
1905
1906
1907
1908
1909
1910

1911
1912
1913
1914
1915
1916
1917
1918
1919
1920

1921
1922
1923
1924
1925
1926
1927
1928
1929
1930

1931
1932
1933
1934
1935
1936
1937
1938
1939
1940

1941
1942
1943
1944
1945
1946
1947
1948
1949
1950

1951
1952
1953
1954
1955
1956
1957
1958
1959
1960

1961
1962
1963
1964
1965
1966
1967
1968
1969
1970

PREFACE

The material for this book was collected from various sources. Notes and photographs taken during my travels; the vast amount of literature on Maratha History; archival papers, especially at the Peshwe Daftar; the Gazetteers; information supplied by a few acquaintances who trek the Sahyadri or visit forts; the topographical features, the contour lines, shown on Survey of India maps; all sources have contributed towards the writing of this book. However, I am conscious that some errors must have crept in, especially when reconstructing the plans of the forts, based only on the contour lines of the maps and descriptions which were never full or accurate to the degree which I had in mind.

Although I have already started work on collecting further material I appeal to all enthusiasts who visit forts to supply all the information that they can gather. Plans, exact locations, and photographs would be of great use in up-dating the information that I am now presenting. Material used will be individually acknowledged and the photographs returned.

I take this opportunity of recording my thanks to Dr. Shrikant Paranjpe of Poona University and my elder brother, Dr. V.S. Naravane of Allahabad, for their help and encouragement. I owe a great deal to my wife, Sudha, and my children and their spouses for their encouragement and understanding.

I must also record my thanks to the General Palit Military Studies Trust for financial help given during my doctoral research. The Staff of many libraries, but notably the libraries of the Poona University, and Deccan College, were most helpful and to them I offer my thanks once again.

Shri S.B. Nangia of Ashish Publishing House has been of great help in giving many suggestions and getting the book printed in fine form.

Pune

Mukund S. Naravane

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
<i>Foreword</i>	vii
<i>Preface</i>	ix
<i>List of Maps</i>	xii
<i>List of Photographs</i>	xiii
<i>List of Figures</i>	xv
1. Introduction	1
2. Geographical Background	5
3. Historical Perspective	13
4. Fort Architecture and Manning	19
5. Listing, Location and Classification of Forts	31
6. Description of Forts	39
7. Impact of Forts	267
Appendix 'A' : Alphabetic List of Forts	285
Appendix 'B' : District-wise List of Forts	301
Appendix 'C' : List of Forts known by more than one name	315
Appendix 'D' : List of unidentified and/or unlocated Forts	319
Appendix 'E' : A Bibliographical note	321

LIST OF MAPS

Maps	<i>Page</i>
1. Place of Maharashtra in India	325
2. Regions of Maharashtra	326
3. Ghats and Forts	327
4. Hill Ranges and River Valleys	328

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

Number	Fort	Page
1.	1(a) Mulher Fort	329
2.	1(b) Mulher Fort	330
3.	Salher and Salota	331
4.	Hatgad	332
5.	Mangi-Tungi	333
6.	Laling	334
7.	Chandvad	335
8.	Markandya	336
9.	Trimbak	337
10.	Anjaneri	338
11.	Harshgad	339
12.	Ramsej	340
13.	Arnala	341
14.	Ghodbandar	342
15.	Shivaneri	343
16.	Chavand	344
17.	Hadsar	345
18.	Narayangad	346
19.	Lohagad	347
20.	Tikona	348
21.	Visapur	349
22.	Janjira	350
23.	Korlai	351
24.	Revadanda	352
25.	Raigad	353
26.	Singhgad	354
27.	Devgad	355
28.	Sindhudurg	356

29.	Statue of Shivaji	357
30.	Varangaum	358
31.	Balapur	359
32.	Akola	360
33.	Naranala	361
34.	Gawilgad	362
35.	Ballalpur	363
36.	Manikgad	364
37.	Mahur	365
38.	Udgir	366
39.	Naladurg	367
40.	Solapur	368
41.	Purandar	369
42.	Wajragad	370
43.	Mallhargad	371
44.	Chakan	372
45.	Pauni	373
46.	Dharur	374
47.	Nagardhan	375
48.	Kandhar	376
49.	Parinda	377
50.	Saptashruni	378

LIST OF FIGURES

Number	Subject	Page
1.	Diagrammatical Representation of a Typical Hill Fort.	379
2.	Some Features of Fortifications.	380
3.	Nandurbar Cluster.	381
4.	Mulher Cluster.	382
5.	Mulher : Plan.	383
6.	Salher and Salota : Plan.	384
7.	Chauler : Plan.	385
8.	Dermal : Plan.	386
9.	Dhamnya : Plan.	387
10.	Hatgad : Plan.	388
11.	Nhavi Killa : Plan.	389
12.	Laling Cluster.	390
13.	Laling : Plan.	391
14.	Galna : Plan.	392
15.	Kankadri : Plan.	393
16.	Malegaum : Plan.	394
17.	Songiri Plan.	395
18.	Chandvad Cluster.	396
19.	Dhodap : Plan.	397
20.	Markandya : Plan.	398
21.	Ankai Cluster.	399
22.	Manikpunj : Plan.	400
23.	Trimbak Cluster.	401
24.	Trimbak : Plan.	402
25.	Harshgad : Plan.	403
26.	Ramsej : Plan.	404
27.	Dahanu Cluster.	405
28.	Alang Cluster.	406

29.	Alang, Kulang, Madangad : Location	407
30.	Mahuli Cluster.	408
31.	Mahim Cluster.	409
32.	Mahim Group of Forts.	410
33.	Vasai Cluster.	411
34.	Vasai : Plan.	412
35.	Shivaneri Cluster.	413
36.	Shivaneri : Plan.	414
37.	Lohagad Cluster.	415
38.	Loagad : Plan.	416
39.	Indori Plan.	417
40.	Kunwarigad : Plan.	418
41.	Malang-gad : Location.	419
42.	Manikgad : Location.	420
43.	Prabalgad : Plan.	421
44.	Sarasgad : Plan.	422
45.	Manavanjan and Shrivardhan : Plan.	423
46.	Tikond : Plan.	424
47.	Tung : Plan.	425
48.	Bombay Cluster.	426
49.	Kulaba Cluster.	427
50.	Kulaba : Plan.	428
51.	Janjira : Plan.	429
52.	Karanala : Plan.	430
53.	Korlai : Plan.	431
54.	Revdanda : Plan.	432
55.	Raigad Cluster.	433
56.	Raigad : Plan.	434
57.	Kaula Killa : Location.	435
58.	Rajgad : Plan.	436
59.	Talegad : Plan.	437
60.	Torna : Plan.	438
61.	Bankot Cluster.	439
62.	Gova : Plan.	440

63.	Fattegad, Gova, Kanakdurg : Location.	441
64.	Pratapgad Cluster.	442
65.	Pratapgad : Plan.	443
66.	Kamalgad : Plan.	444
67.	Kejalgad : Plan.	445
68.	Mahimangad : Plan.	446
69.	Pandavgad : Plan.	447
70.	Rohida : Location.	448
71.	Satar Cluster.	449
72.	Satara : Plan.	450
73.	Chandan and Vandan : Plan.	451
74.	Jangli Jaygad : Plan.	452
75.	Sajjangad : Plan.	453
76.	Vairatgad : Plan.	454
77.	Vardhangad : Plan.	455
78.	Vasota : Location.	456
79.	Anjanvel Cluster.	457
80.	Govalkot : Location.	458
81.	Prachitgad Cluster.	459
82.	Prachitgad : Plan.	460
83.	Bhairavgad : Location.	461
84.	Devgad : Plan.	462
85.	Gunwantgad : Plan.	463
86.	Ratnagiri Cluster.	464
87.	Ratnagiri : Plan.	465
88.	Panhala Cluster.	466
89.	Fort Panhala	467
90.	Panhala : Plan.	468
91.	Vijaydurg Cluster.	469
92.	Vijaydurg : Plan.	470
93.	Rangana Cluster.	471
94.	Rangna : Location.	472
95.	Manohargad : Plan.	473
96.	Sindhudurg Cluster.	474

97.	Sindhudurg : Plan.	475
98.	The Northern Line.	476
99.	The Northern Line, Continued.	477
100.	Balapur : Plan.	478
101.	Naranala : Plan.	479
102.	Gawilgad : Plan.	480
103.	The Eastern Line.	481
104.	The Southern Line.	482
105.	The Southern Line, Continued.	483
106.	Chandrapur : Plan.	484
107.	Ballapur : Plan.	485
108.	Manikgad : Plan.	486
109.	Mahur : Plan.	487
110.	Udgir : Plan.	488
111.	Naladurg : Plan.	489
112.	Sholapur : Plan.	490
113.	The Western Line.	491
114.	The Western Line, Continued.	492
115.	Karad : Location.	493
116.	Sadashivgad : Plan.	494
117.	Mahimangad : Plan.	495
118.	Malavdi : Location.	496
119.	Varugad : Plan.	497
120.	Santoshgad : Plan.	498
121.	Purandar : Plan.	499
122.	Ahmadnagar : Plan.	500
123.	Parola : Plan.	501
124.	Abhasgad : Plan.	502
125.	Assaye : Location.	503
126.	Baitulwadi Plan.	504
127.	Dharur : Plan.	505
128.	Nagardhan : Plan.	506
129.	Tembhurni : Plan.	507
130.	Plan to Illustrate Defence in Depth.	508

INTRODUCTION

1. NEED FOR STUDY

Emotional Appeal

In the intellectual development of every Maharashtrian child¹ stories about Shivaji play an important part. Shivaji and his generals, Netaji, Tanaji, Yesaji and a host of others; Shivaji and his forts, Shivneri where he was born, Raigad where he was crowned and where he died; Singhgad where a lion amongst men fell during its capture; Shivaji and his bravery and his tolerance; all are part of stories, fact and fiction, which are still told with great interest and reverence. Numerous novels, plays, ballads, keep his memory alive.

Shivaji was a hero. But a hero as such can only exist when a State is being formed.² Thus the interest in Shivaji as a hero has gone much beyond his person. It travels over the country where he lived and carried out his mission. The rivers, the mountains, the jungles, the sea and the strongholds dotted along the coast, and the people of Maharashtra, all hold us spellbound. Aided by nature, the Sahyadri still fascinates. The peaks, shrouded by mist and cloud still beckon. And above all, the innumerable forts which are so much a part of Maratha history, still await visit and exploration.

This great emotional appeal makes the study of the forts a labour of love.

Preservation of Heritage

It has now been accepted that the predecessors of the British in India were not the Mughals but the Marathas. And such was the fright given by Maratha arms and spirit that when the sun finally set over the Maratha Confederacy, the British took great care to ensure that the forts were systematically destroyed, in great contrast to the forts of the North which were allowed to remain intact. The ramparts, the bastions, the guard rooms and water reservoirs, all were pulled down. What escaped the cannonade during assault and capture, was blown up after the fort had

surrendered. This was in 1818-19. Later in 1844-45 many more forts were dismantled. Obviously the British did not want to leave a single point or nucleus where freedom could flourish again.

The forts, largely forgotten, and in ruins, remained, to slowly crumble altogether against the onslaught of nature. More important, the forts started fading from the memory of man. It was, therefore, necessary to preserve in print, if not physically, this priceless heritage.

All Maharashtra Coverage

It is generally seen that when one talks about forts, the accent is largely on the forts of the Konkan and the Sahyadris. But this area, the core of Shivaji's kingdom, is only a small portion of Maharashtra which stretches far out to the east and encompasses most of the Deccan plateau. The forts located in this area did not receive as much attention as they deserved. Thus, this book is not on Maratha forts alone, but covers the whole of Maharashtra.

Re-assessment of the Importance of Forts

An image has been built around the forts which needs to be re-examined. The forts did not play an overwhelmingly important part in military operations except for a brief period of time and in a limited area of the country. On the other hand, the impact of forts on the political and administrative affairs of the State was far more important than the purely military function. Even at the time of Shivaji, the real impact of forts comes out when one studies not how Shivaji conquered, but how he governed.

There is, thus, a need to study the impact of forts in the military, political and administrative fields afresh.

Lack of Comprehensive Literature

There is a vast amount of literature on the history of the period. But forts get mentioned incidentally, merely as places where a particular event took place. There are no comprehensive histories dealing specifically with the forts. The Gazetteers do not list all the forts and reference to them is limited. The exact location of the forts is also not given. In any case, there is not a reference work where all the forts of Maharashtra are listed within the covers of a single volume. This book removes many of these shortcomings.

A bibliographical note is placed at the end of the book. What is required is a Gazetteer of Forts, not only of Maharashtra but of all the States of India.

2. APPROACH TO HISTORY

A historian's approach is, in great measure, prioristic. I have not only selected a small segment of the historical canvas to paint, but I have also determined what colours to use and what to discard. I realize that my selection may differ with what others might have chosen. The explanations that I seek may not excite the curiosity of all. In any case such explanations cannot be found in historical texts which are mostly a chronological narrative of events. I have attempted to put back the clock of history and try and 'live' in medieval Maharashtra, and to think the thoughts of the past. This is not very easy. Can the mind developed and conditioned by 'today' go back to 'yesterday' ? Can the values inherited and enlarged by education in the 20th century be reconciled with those of the 17th century Konkan ? Shivaji's killing of Chandrarao More is a case in point. What the 20th century historian calls murder was perfectly justified, morally acceptable, and largely welcomed, in 1656.

Thus, empirical narrative has to be supplemented by imagination. Imagination resting on a factual base, imagination which is reasonable and unbiased, but imagination nevertheless. It is thus obvious that there may be differing views and my interpretation and selection may not find acceptance. I stand open to review and revision.

NOTES

1. Here the word "Maharashtrian" is used to denote all those, irrespective of caste or religion, who live in Maharashtra and whose mother tongue or language of choice, is Marathi. However, interest in Maratha history and the forts of Maharashtra is to be seen all over India.
2. Mazlish Bruce, *The Riddle of History*, p. 152.

GEOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND

1. PHYSICAL FEATURES

Extent and Boundaries

The present State of Maharashtra is a continuous land mass with varied features where Marathi is the most widely used language. It is one of the larger States of India and lies between, approximately, 15°45' North to 21°45' North of latitude at its farthest southern and northern points; and from 72°30' East to 80°45' East of longitude at its extreme western and eastern points respectively. The total land mass is approximately 2,48,400 sq. kms. The State is bounded as follows :

On the West from Vengurla in the South to Dahanu in the North is the almost straight coast line of the Arabian Sea. At a short distance above Dahanu, the boundary turns eastwards for a few kilometres, skirts the Diu enclave and runs North along Valsad and Dang areas of Gujarat till it meets the river Narmada near Toranmal.

In the North the State is bounded by Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, for the greater part by the latter. The boundary, although touching the Narmada, turns sharply South and then runs along the river Tapi for a long distance. It is always South of Satpuda range of hills. The North East corner bulges a little near the Gavilgad hills.

In the East the State is bounded by Madhya Pradesh and at its southern most tip, by Andhra Pradesh. It lies East of the Wainganga river and includes part of the Bastar hills.

In the South lies Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and to a small extent, Goa. It is a zig zag line connecting the easternmost district of Gadchiroli to the western most district of Sindhudurg.

The place of Maharashtra in India is shown in Map 1. It will, at once, be apparent that Maharashtra straddles across most of the Deccan and all routes from the North to the southern country must pass through it. Only the eastern coastal route passed through Telangana and the old Carnatic

and lay outside Maharashtra. This physical feature is of considerable importance while dealing with the forts which, in one form or the other, dominated all lines of communications.

Districts and Regions

The State is divided into 30 districts, not counting the recent division of Bombay into two. Details of the various districts are not relevant to the present study. The 'rise and fall' of forts can be said to have taken place between 1200 to 1800 A.D. Although the art of fortification was practiced from times immemorial, the study of the forts of Maharashtra must be confined to a suitable time frame, and the one given above applies to this work.

The regions of Maharashtra are, however, important because each had a definite influence on the use of forts. The following main regions can be noted :

- (a) The Border Regions.
- (b) The Konkan.
- (c) The Sahyadri and its side ranges.
- (d) The Maval.
- (e) The Deccan Plateau.
- (f) The River Basins.

These are shown in Map 2. A brief discussion follows.

The Northern Border. The present northern border, as has been stated, runs mostly along the river Tapti. However, the traditional border between the North and the South of India, the Hindustan and the Deccan, ran along the Vindhya and the river Narmada. For long it was considered a barrier and the expansion southwards from Hindustan was considered difficult. Nevertheless there were many passages which afforded entry southwards. The age old route passed through what is now known as the Bhusaval gap, through which the Central Railway from Bhusaval to Burhanpur runs. The Narmada could be crossed at many points, the most frequent being the Haldia Ghat. At the northern end of this gap stood the mighty fortress of Asirgad which certainly existed in a simpler form at the beginning of the 13th century. It is surprising to note that there is no great fort at the southern end of the gap. The route passed down to Aurangabad and a group of forts in the Ajanta range must have done duty to guard this route. The other passes were the Sandhwa Gap west of Asirgad and the famous Balaghat in the north eastern edge through which Khalji descended to bring Muslim arms to the Deccan for the first time in a devastating and far reaching campaign.

The Eastern Border. This runs along broken hill ranges which do not present a very formidable obstacle. However, the region was, and still is, very heavily wooded. In medieval India it was the abode of small chiefs, many Gonds, a people never really subjugated completely by any power. It is in the news even today due to Naxalite activity. The main forts in this area are Pauni, Wairagad and Tipagad.

The Southern Border runs zig zag from Gadchiroli in the east to Sindhudurg in the west, bounding the districts of Chandrapur, Yavatmal, Nanded, Latur, Usmanabad, Solapur, Sangli, Kolhapur, ending at the sea. It must, however, be remembered that in medieval India there was no such boundary. The region saw many empires and kingdoms whose boundaries changed very often. The forts of Mahur, Parenda, Dharur, Solapur, Naldurg, all were important at one time or the other as frontier forts during the rule of various dynasties.

The Western Border is the sea coast dotted with numerous forts. It is important to note that the western coast of Maharashtra had a flourishing trade from very ancient times. The entry of the European powers was through this border although in case of the British the first expansions were from Calcutta westwards rather than from Bombay eastwards.

The Konkan

Konkan is the name given to the narrow strip of land between the Sahyadri range and the sea. It is a low land in true sense and is never more than about 80 kms. wide. At times the western spurs of the Sahyadris reach upto and sometimes into, the sea. The important rivers of the Konkan are : Vaitarna, Ulhas, Amba, Kundalika, Savitri and Shastri.

Traditionally Konkan is described under two sub-regions. North Konkan and South Konkan with the island of Bombay, or sometimes the Savitri river, dividing the two. Another accepted division is described below.

North Konkan is the area between Dahanu and Bombay, broad and flat. The coast is sandy and shallow and with few islands. Arnala is a strong island fort and there are numerous small forts inland. The eastern edge of North Konkan is not very formidable and numerous passages exist.

Bombay. There were originally seven islands separated by narrow creeks. The area is flat with a few low hills. Seven forts provided the British with a base from which they expanded their territory.

Central Konkan is a very hilly area and sometimes there is no beach at all. Alibag, Revdanda, Devgad are some of the main forts. It has some ports which were famous from ancient times.

South Konkan is a comparatively broad land where there is extensive rice and coconut cultivation. Ratnagiri and Malvan are the main ports and each has a fort protecting it. The eastern face of South Konkan is much more formidable and densely forested as compared with the region north of Bombay.

The Sahyadri

It has been said that if the Himalayas are *nivrutti pradhan* or *devbhumi* (abode of Gods), then the Sahyadris are *prakruti pradhan* or *virbhumi* (abode of valour)¹ This mountain range which runs from north to south is often called the Western Ghats. The main range runs from about Ahwa in Dang area of Gujarat, to the southern tip of Maharashtra and a little beyond. The length is about 640 kms and the height varies mainly from 900 to 1660 mtrs. The width is from 10 to 20 kms.

The novel feature of the Sahyadri is its geological formation. Composed of basalt rock and subject to weathering, it has a very steep scarp face on its western side, *i.e.*, overlooking the Konkan. The eastern face is less steep and scarped. The entire area was once covered with thick forests, almost impassable and even then with the help of local guides. It made for isolation where a fierce independent spirit reigned.

Connecting the Konkan with the Deccan plateau there are a number of passes which cut across the Sahyadri and every ruler had to have a fort to control these passes. This area, therefore, abounds in forts. The terrain, too, provided excellent opportunities. A naturally inaccessible hill top could be converted into a formidable fort with a minimum of fortifications. Some of these ghats and forts are shown in Map 3.

The side ranges or the off shoots of the Sahyadri run from the west to east and south east. Each major range is separated from the next by river valleys. The main ranges are the Dhulia Hills, the Satmala-Ajanta range, the Balaghat range, and the Mahadev range.

The Maval

This is a narrow strip just to the east of the Sahyadri ghat matha. It is a transitory belt, neither as high as the Sahyadri to its west, nor as flat as the Deccan to its east. It was an important area where Shivaji established his base. Not surprisingly, it has many forts. Its people, the Mavles were

Shivaji's childhood companions and provided him with the finest soldiers that he could have hoped for.

The Deccan Plateau.²

Gently sloping eastwards from the Mavals is the extensive flatish tract interspersed with hills and rivers— the Deccan Plateau. It is traversed by rivers and by hill ranges. These proved no barrier to Khalji or other invaders from the North and the plateau was often the battle ground for political supremacy.

When Maharashtra was Dandakaranya, the Satvahans could rule it from their eastern capitals. But with time new kingdoms and new capitals came to be established. All the important capitals of the period lie in the Deccan plateau. The ancient capitals of Pratishthan (modern Paithan), Vatapi (modern Badami), Kalyani, Manyakheta, and the medieval capitals of Ahmadnagar, Bidar, Bijapur, Golkunda, Ellichpur, all are in the Deccan plateau. Only Shivaji had his capital in the Sahyadri, first at Rajgad and then at Raigad.

The River Basins

The Tapi, Purna, Girna Basin. The Tapi, is the only river in Maharashtra which runs westwards into the Arabian Sea near Surat. The Tapi rises in eastern Satpudas, the Girna in the eastern face of the Sahyadri, and the Purna in the East Gavilgad hills. A string of land forts are on either side of the basin, and some like Thalner are on the river itself. The Tapi basin separates the Satpuds in the North and the Ajanta range in the South.

The Godavari Basin. The most important river of Maharashtra, it rises near Nasik and runs right across Maharashtra and ultimately empties into the Bay of Bengal. The Godavari has left an indelible mark on the religious, political, cultural and military events and personalities. It separates the Ajanta range in the North and the Balaghat range in the South.

The Bhima Basin. The Bhima is a very large tributary of the Krishna, but it is a practically independent river within Maharashtra. It starts trickling down near Bhimashankar and fed by many tributaries flows eastwards to join the Krishna near Raichur. The strategic importance of the river was recognized early. The banks of the Bhima were a favourite camping ground of the Emperor Aurangjeb.

The Krishna Basin. The river rises in the Mahableshwar hills. In its initial stages the river runs almost straight southwards. Its upper basin covers the whole district of Sangli and parts of Satara and Kolhapur. The Panchganga is an important tributary and has the important towns of Karad, Miraj and Kolhapur on its banks.

The Wainganga-Wardha System. The eastern part of Maharashtra is dominated by the Wainganga—Wardha rivers. It waters the region known from ancient times as Vidharba. It passes through a narrow neck in the South-eastern corner of Maharashtra and enters Andhra Pradesh.

The hill ranges and the river basins alternate and this is an important geographical feature of Maharashtra. It is shown in Map. 4.

2. COMMUNICATIONS

A mention has been made of the main passes that connect the Konkan with the Desh. One way of determining the lines of communication that must have existed in ancient or medieval India is to mark the location of caves and viharas of Buddhists and Jain monks. It will be observed that the lines joining these sites are very close to the alignment of the later trade routes and still later the established highways.

In an era where there was no railway or post and telegraph, the means of communication was based solely on runners (the harkaras of later years) both on foot and horseback. The absence of roads was not as great an obstacle as the very thick jungles and the numerous streams which became unpassable during the rainy season. These messengers had great stamina and covered surprisingly long distances. It has been recorded that towards the end of the 18th century, letters from Calcutta to Delhi took 12 days to reach the destination.

In the flat Deccan country communications were comparatively easy. In western Maharashtra the close proximity of the forts on high peaks enabled simple messages to be passed by visual means. But this mode was mostly restricted to military use.

It will be observed that in the plains the forts are located at a considerable distance from each other, whereas in western Maharashtra they are located very close to each other. Easy communication in the plains and very difficult communications in the hills appear to be one reason for this state.

3. THE PEOPLE

There is considerable debate regarding the original inhabitants of Maharashtra. The original tribes such as the Gonds, the Bhils, the Kolis

and others still exist in considerable numbers. It is also certain that large scale migrations from the North took place. Migration by the sea route was, however, very limited.

But whatever the composition of the people, what is important is the character of the people. Today we talk about the "man behind the machine" as being a key factor in modern warfare. The "men behind the fort ramparts" was equally a key factor in the days when forts played an often important part in military campaigns.

The people of Western Maharashtra were tough and enterprising. The land was poor and their comparative isolation made them freedom loving. Their attachment to land-their *watan*-was monumental and made them capable of great sacrifices. Forts became the focal points for their life and death. The people of the plateau, on the other hand, had more productive land to till. But the open land which facilitated large scale movement of large armies made them face the ravages of war to an extent where they developed a sense of fatalism. "Fate" had to be accepted, as one master was as bad as the other and the master who provided more security was to be preferred. There was no attachment to values like freedom and a national feeling. The forts did not symbolise the same values of safety and freedom as in the Sahyadris.

The people were not immune from the common human failings, avarice being the most marked. The poverty and the yearning for land made a fertile ground for disloyalty. It was the bribe of a *deshmukhi* which made Suryaji Pisal surrender the fort of Raigad to Aurangzeb. It was for the sake of a *sanad* for land that made Nagoji Mane cut off the head of Santaji and place it at the Emperor's feet. And Murari Rao (Ghorpade) has been described as "the very embodiment of sordid selfishness."³

4. The Climate

The climate of Maharashtra varies a great deal. Western Maharashtra has a temperate climate. The Deccan Plateau has a more varied climate, very hot in summer and quite cold in the winter. Some idea can be had from the following :

	<i>Konkan Sahyadri Desh</i>		
Temperature in centigrade.			
Summer	30-41	19-31	17-40
Winter	17-28	14-28	12-23
Rainfall in cms.	260	500	60

The above figures have been taken from modern meteorological data but during the times with which this book deals, the temperatures were likely to be much lower and the rainfall much greater due to the very extensive forests which covered large tracts of Maharashtra from where they have since disappeared.

The rainfall, and to a lesser extent, the temperature dictated the campaigning season. The monsoons made the rivers, normally dry in the remaining part of the year, unfordable, and the tracks and roads muddy which impaired movement. The already isolated forts of the Sahayadris were almost unapproachable in the monsoons.

5. Effect of Geography on History

To recapitulate, the effects of geographical factors on the history of the area was considerable. The terrain, especially the hilly terrain, determined the direction and condition of the routes, immigration and invasions and so, by derivation the location of the forts.

Geography also moulded the character of the people to a considerable extent. The people of Western Maharashtra were "resolute, enduring, daring,.....".⁴ These qualities were fully utilised by Shivaji. At the same time, the people were isolated, had a narrow outlook, greatly attached to their land. This tendency was promoted, to a certain extent, by the forts which afforded them shelter and a sense of being content in their own little spheres, with no thought on what lay beyond the horizon. As long as this small world of theirs was not disturbed, they thought little of the wider issues of nationhood and freedom.

The comparatively poor agricultural productivity in Western Maharashtra meant that neither a large population, nor a large army, could be maintained. Expansion towards more fertile and open land became inevitable. And when this happened the 'Maratha' content of the armies became so diluted that in the armies of the later Peshwas and the Confederacy Sirdars and Rajas the larger percentage of soldiers were non-Marathas. The scene of conflict shifted northwards and the forts too lost their influence in building a high 'Maratha' Morale

NOTES

1. Joglekar, *Sahyadri*, page 58.
2. "Deccan" in the context of medieval history is taken to mean all the land between the Tapti in the North and edge of the plateau in the South, and from sea to sea. Proceedings of the Indian History Congress, Hyderabad, 1948, page 19
3. Sadasivan D. *Muarari Rao*, Maratha History Seminar 1971, page 9.
4. Temple. Sir Richard : *Oriental Experiences*, Page. 339.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

The Antiquity of History

The history of Maharashtra, or the Marathi speaking people the—Maharattakas or Rashtrakutas - is of great antiquity. A rock edict of Ashoka of the 3rd century B.C. records the existence of the Rashtrakutas in the Deccan.¹ An inscription in Carla caves, near Lonavala, records the contribution of Maharatthi (male) and Maharatthinis (female) workers during construction.

The early history of Maharashtra records the rise and fall of many dynasties - the Satavahanas, Chalukya and the Yadavas. The Yadav kingdom and the dominance of Hindu Kings in the Deccan was smashed by the invasion of Allauddin Khilji and later it was the Muslim kingdoms—the Bahamanis (1347-1526) and subsequently the five splinter groups of Ahmadnagar, Bijapur, Bidar, Berar and Golconda which dominated the historical scene. The fall of the Vijayanagar Empire and the resurgence of Hindu freedom under Shivaji are too well known to be repeated here.

However, up to the death of Aurangzeb in 1707 one can say that the forts of Maharashtra played a considerable role in the affairs of the State. Under the Peshwas when Maratha arms were carried beyond the Narmada the forts of Maharashtra lost all their military importance and were mainly used as administrative headquarters or as state prisons. When the East India Company took over the country from the Marathas, the forts were further relegated to the background and, indeed, most of them were blown up or dismantled so as to make them unusable.

The Antiquity of Forts

If the period when forts began to lose their importance is fairly easy to determine (1707), the period when they started playing an important role is far more difficult to determine. The antiquity of forts cannot be traced with any degree of certainty in a large number of cases.

Not all the forts of Maharashtra were built by Marathas. Fort building in Maharashtra started as early as the 8th century A.D. Many forts such as

Rangna, Bavda, Vishalgad, Salher, certainly existed much before the Maratha period. Grant Duff² records the names of fifteen forts as having been built by Raja Bhoj during his reign, 1178 - 1193 A.D. Many ancient Buddhist and Jain caves had some kind of fortifications or forts near them. The Ajanta and Ellora group of temples had the forts of Abhasgad and Baitalwadi very close to them. Even Deogiri or Daulatabad existed as a fortified peak from before the Yadav period. Examples exist, though rare, where the caves and viharas located on the side or slope of a hill had fortifications on the top of the same hill. The best known example of this is Shivneri.

Popular opinion would have us believe that a very large number of forts were built by Shivaji. Sabhasad claims that Shivaji built 111 forts, which is patently wrong. Shivaji himself, in a letter to Mughal generals states that he had in his possession "60 forts newly built."³ But even this figure is wrong as Shivaji renovated and repaired a number of forts so as to make them as good as new. The number of forts built by Shivaji, *i.e.*, totally new construction, does not probably exceed 18. Mate⁴ has attempted a listing of forts under columns—when first built, by whom built, and whether built, repaired or renovated, but his listing is not comprehensive and for the obvious reasons that it is difficult to ascertain exact or even nearly accurate information. It may thus be said that most of the forts were built during the period 12th century to 17th century.

The Climate of History

More important than the antiquity of forts, consideration has to be given to the conditions in which the forts existed and functioned, what I call the Climate of History. Restricting ourselves to the period when the forts had the largest impact, *i.e.*, 1600 to 1800 A.D. we find a number of points inviting our attention.

During the 15th and 16th centuries the Musalman nobility in the Deccan was, to a large extent, Afghan. The turks found very little place and the Muslims born and brought up within India had not risen high enough. But in the 17th century we find a different picture emerging. The Deccani Muslim nobility—some of them converts from the bravest and brainiest Marathas and Kanarese⁵ had begun to gain strength. The growing rivalry between the Afghan and Deccani nobility led to the emergence of a third nobility—the Maratha nobility. In the power game in the courts of the Sultans each side sought the support of the Marathas. The inborn character of the Marathas, their courage as well as their loyalty to their Muslim masters made them valuable allies.

Consider the political instability of the times. Out of the 18 Bahamani Sultans, 3 were murdered and two blinded. Out of the 11 Nizamshahi kings, 2 were murdered, 2 imprisoned and 1 forced to abdicate. The 4th Sultan tried to kill his son, but the son killed the father. In the case of the Adilshahis, out of 9 Sultans, 2 were murdered, 1 blinded and 1 imprisoned. In this turbulent atmosphere, the Maratha nobility represented stability and loyalty, provided they were given a free hand in managing their *watans* and the forts, which soon became the symbols of this stability. Take the case of Shahaji. His loyalty to the Nizamshahi throne motivated him to defy the combined might of the Mughals and the Adilshahis. But transferring his services to Bijapur, he was equally loyal and energetic. Indeed, it was he, more than anyone else, who helped Bijapur expand southwards and it was he who put down many fellow Hindu polygars. The Mores and the Nimbalkars took great pride in serving the Adilshahi Sultans and were openly hostile to Shivaji's attempt to found a Hindu kingdom.

But if they were loyal to their Muslim masters, they also emulated them in another direction. The Deccan Sultans were constantly at war against each other, uniting only once to defeat the Vijayanagar forces at the Battle of Talikota in 1565. The Maratha chiefs, too, were constantly at each others throats. One chief against another, one *deshmukh* against his neighbour, one village patil against the patil next door, the struggle went on. And the Muslim masters were happy as this prevented any one chief to become too powerful. In these skirmishes, the forts provided stability to the regime, shelter in times of stress, and prestige in times of prosperity. Therefore, the capture of the fort held by the rival often became an end in itself, bereft of any military advantage.

But the forts also acquired another image. Cruelty and treachery had become a part of life. There were innumerable instances when a Muslim general promised the garrison of the fort that it would be allowed to go in peace, but when the fort was actually given up, the men were put to the sword. The old women and children were sold into slavery and the young women were taken into the harem or forced to become camp followers for the comfort of the troops. Not even Sambhaji could prevent the slaughter of the garrison of Bhupalgad, when it surrendered to the Mughals only because he—Sambhaji, son of Shivaji, had asked the *killedar* to do so. Among the Hindu chiefs this streak was very much less marked but was nevertheless present. In a fight between two Maratha Chiefs even the women and children of the fallen rival were not spared.⁶ The Chiefs treated even their own subjects cruelly, so much so that forts became

necessary for protection from ones own people as well as from the enemy. Many forts, thus, became symbols of tyranny.

Into such an atmosphere strode Shivaji. Peace was restored. A Kingdom was founded. Courage found a new expression, loyalty a new meaning. Forts became the symbols of the king's goodness and strength. They started representing safety and welfare and not places from where only oppression had flowed in the past. Because of this administrative and symbolic nature of the fort, more than its purely military value, that Shivaji spent a great deal of thought and effort in the management of forts. In an age where communications were scanty and difficult, the people, especially in remote areas, were cut off from the main stream of political activity which took place in some great but distant capital. Their life revolved around their village and then to the fort or *ghadi* in the vicinity. They had never seen their King, nor had the King ever set foot in their village or fort. They looked to the *killedar* for help and protection and thus loyalty and obedience to him became their prime consideration. If the fort commander feathered his own nest and paid no attention to enforcing the king's laws and maintaining the king's peace, then for the local population the idea of loyalty to a far off king, and to a noble, but to him highly intangible, concept of *swarajya* became impracticable. It was for this reason that Shivaji took a number of steps to ensure that the forts were properly managed and did not become symbols of oppression or centres for revolt. Shivaji's personality permeated to the lowest level and from the farthest corners of his kingdom people flocked to his banner. With the re-introduction of the jagirs under the Peshwas, central authority got inevitably eroded and the forts became the fiefs of individual sardars.

The climate of history had another facet. The economy was predominantly agrarian and this tied down the people to a particular location. The forts, too, were essentially static in concept and functioning. Not only the physical mobility but also the mental mobility of the people and the rulers got stunted. If the English could travel thousands of miles across the seas, establish a foothold in India and prove their superiority in military skill and technology, in artillery and administration, how is it that not a single Maratha general or administrator felt like travelling to Europe and learn from the West what his own country so vitally needed ?

Thus in the prevalent climate of history, progress, unity, cooperation, a sense of belonging, all declined and after a brief, brilliant display, the Marathas gave way to the British. The arrival of the East India Company changed the climate of history for ever. They were fortunate in having a succession of dedicated and energetic men in Hastings, Cornwallis,

Wellesley and others, while after the death of Peshwa Bajirao I and Mahadji Scindia, the Maratha Confederacy had only vain, selfish, cruel and incompetent leaders.

Any discussion on the place of forts and the success of Maratha arms must inevitable lead to one of the great "ifs" of History. If the Marathas had not crossed the Narbada but had first consolidated their position firmly in the Deccan and the extreme south, using the forts as both military and political bases, the triumph of East India Company would have been delayed or at best restricted to a few areas only.

NOTES

1. Sardesai G.S. *A New History of the Marathas*, Vol. I page 13.
2. Duff James Grant. *History of the Mahrattas* Vol. I page 21.
3. Shejwalkar T.S., *Shri Shivchatrapati*, page 292.
4. Mate M.S., *Maratha Architecture* pages 62-65.
5. Sircar Sir J., *House of Shivaji*, page 2.
6. Shejwalkar, *op cit.*, page 16.

FORT ARCHITECTURE AND MANNING

1. SITING OF FORTS

One of the first innovations of civilization appears to be the construction and growth of fortifications. Primitive man fortified his dwelling by a hedge of thorns to keep away wild animals. But when man became a greater menace than beast, when men grouped themselves to attack other groups, when armies were formed, fortifications grew into substantial structures. Forts became an integral part of the State. The Kalika Purana warned that kings must construct adequate forts. The Agni Purana lists seven limbs of the body of any kingdom, and forts is one of them. The large number of place names in the country ending in "pur" would signify the importance of fortifications because the suffix "pur" meant an earthwork or strengthened wall.¹

A definite pattern can be found in the development of forts. First it was the village that was fortified, then the town. But a time came when a chieftain residing in a town felt that his own house needed special protection. So fortified residences or *gadhis* came into being. The *gadhis* dotted all over Maharashtra are a good example of such fortified residences.

When armies grew in size, it must have become apparent that the military could not be quartered in town. Dispersal and civilian influence was not conducive to discipline. The chieftain must have also felt that a separate place away from the town was necessary for the sake of better protection—not only from enemies but also from his own disgruntled subjects. Forts provided the answer. They were either built a little away from the town or well away, often on the lines of communications, or to control a particular pass.

2. THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF FORTIFICATIONS

The Rampart or Wall

This is the main element of forts. It surrounds the place to be protected. These two terms—ramparts and wall—are sometimes used

synonymously. But a distinction should be made. The term wall should be used when the structure is high but rounded, tapering or narrow at the top with no flat surface where troops can patrol. A rampart, on the other hand, has a flat, wide surface at the top where troops can patrol or take up positions.

Both have advantages and disadvantages. A wall does not allow patrolling or observation. It also does not allow the defenders to fire upon an advancing enemy. Firing can, no doubt, be done from bastions, but the range and angles get restricted and the entire perimeter may not be covered. On the other hand it had the advantage that escalading by the enemy becomes difficult. The top of the wall does not allow any foot hold and a soldier reaching the top has only two alternatives. He can either jump down on the other side or clamber down ropes, or take the chance of being thrown back on top of his comrades below. A rampart affords patrolling all round and fire can be brought down on the enemy from any point. The disadvantage is that an attacker can gain a foothold, can move sideways and make room for his comrades to follow. On the whole ramparts offer more advantages but are costlier to build and maintain.

In addition to the main wall or rampart, curtain walls were sometimes built well forward of the main defenses. Pratapgad had a double line of fortifications. Santoshgad and Thatvade, which were strategically not very important, had three. Ankai and Tankai were said to have as many as seven lines.

The height and thickness of the walls depended upon many factors, such as its location, its purpose, the perceived threat, the construction material available and of course the availability of finances. However, an impression is un-avoidable that, in some cases at least, the massive walls were more to satisfy the ego and image of the king rather than meet purely military requirements.

Bastions and Towers

Bastions are projections outwards from the wall or rampart. The normal shape was semi-circular but tetragonal and hexagonal bastions are also seen. They were built along the entire perimeter and invariably on either side of the entrance. The distance between the bastions depended upon the length of the perimeter, the approach to be covered, the fire power available and the strength of the garrison.

The main feature of a bastion is the flat, fairly large surface at the top, at level with, or slightly higher than, the rampart. It had to be big enough to hold a body of troops and, more important, mount a gun. Steps were built to reach the bastion. Steps were also built at intervals along the

ramparts to reach the top. The base of the bastion was wide enough to serve as a guard room or to store munitions. For that matter the base of most walls and ramparts was wide enough to provide small niches or covered space for troops or animals. In some cases (Visapur) toilets were also built in the base.

The main purpose of a bastion was to provide enfilading fire on any advancing enemy troops. But for this to be effective, the height, width and frequency of location had to be accurately determined. It would appear that in this respect a scientific approach was lacking. This point is discussed later.

'A'

Approach

The approach to the fort was made as difficult as possible. Cactus was grown on the slopes which made the passage almost unpassable without cutting a passage through it, which, of course, made surprise impossible. The way to the top, usually one, was along steep and twisting paths and rock cut or built steps. These staircases or steps were not only narrow but also very steep. Often it was not possible for more than one or two persons to climb abreast. (Harshgad). At other places chains or ladders were necessary to climb to the top and these implements could always be drawn up making pursuit impossible. Tunneled staircases, covered paths and rock cut gates and trap doors were provided to make entry truly difficult. It should, however, be remembered that if a fort was difficult to get into, it was almost equally difficult to get out of, and this did not permit very rapid descent and deployment of the garrison.

The approach to land forts was made difficult by moat or ditch. This was outside the main wall, although instances of a ditch along the inner wall are also seen. The width and depth of the ditch was dependent upon the space available and the threat perceived. Often the excavated material from the ditch was used for building the walls and other structures.

Gates

In hill forts there was usually one massive main gate and an inner gate placed at an angle to the first. Often there was a succession of gates placed one behind the other. Shivneri had, for example, five recognizable gates one behind the other. The distance between the gates varied, depending upon the space available and the terrain. The passage between the gates was invariably crooked or zig zag, and commanded by a wall and even a bastion. The idea, of course, was that even if an invader

succeeded in forcing the main gate, they would be caught in the narrow, twisting path and bombarded from above. Hill forts had almost always a secret gate (*chor darwaza*) for effecting an unobserved escape.

The gates were made of hard, seasoned, timber sometimes plated with iron sheets. They were often fitted, especially in land forts, with steel spikes to prevent elephants being used to batter down a gate. The panels of the gateway were hinged and secured on strong hooks or holes in the side wall. A thick strong wooden bar was placed across the two panels to give further strength. In some cases gates were hewn out of solid rock (Trimbak, Hatgad,) and therefore, bastions on either side, a normal feature of gates, was not necessary. A narrow flight of steps or a path led to the gate and continued beyond, often through a covered passage or tunnel.

Land forts had two or more gates. The main gate was usually high enough to permit passage of an elephant. The top of the gate had a gallery where musicians played at fixed hours. This was called the *nakarkhana*. To describe the architecture of the gates, the shape of the arches and galleries will be outside the scope of this book. It may, however, be mentioned that forts built or renovated by the Marathas, particularly Shivaji, had the image of Ganapati sculpted in a niche near the main entrance. Other motifs were the lion, the tiger, Hanuman, and the eagle. It was also common, especially in the case of forts built by the Muslims, to have an inscription on the mantle of the gate or on a stone slab erected close to the gate. It should be noted that the inscription was normally full of praise of the king and was not always accurate.

A diagrammatical representation of a typical hill fort is shown in Fig. 1.

3. OTHER FEATURES

The Parapet

This was a 1.2 to 2 metre high structure built at the forward edge of a rampart. Its chief purpose was to provide protection to the soldiers patrolling on the rampart. Parapets were invariably loop holed (*jangya*) to enable the defenders to fire upon the enemy below. The angle of the loop holes determined the area that could be covered, from very close to the wall to some distance away. An upper and lower row of loop holes was often provided.

Merlons (*Ardhadal*), Embrasures (*falika*), Machicolations (*zaroka*)

The parapet was never continuous with the same height throughout its length. It was punctuated with alternate merlons and embrasures. The merlons afforded protection to the soldiers standing behind it and firing

through the loop holes. The embrasures were the openings which could be used for observation or for hurling missiles on the enemy below.² The importance of these features declined sharply with the advent of improved artillery.

Machicolations were openings on the top of the gateways and entrance passages. These were used to fire upon any enemy who may have reached close to the gate. If the enemy tried to burn the gate then water could be poured to extinguish the fire.

The above three structures became a regular feature of fort architecture in the 15th century. There were certainly not seen in the pre 12th century fortifications, the traces of which can sometimes be seen. Incidentally, when the Mughals captured Asirgad in 1601 they found huge cauldrons on top of the bastions where oil could be heated and then showered on the attackers.³

Some of these features are illustrated in Fig. 2.

The Citadel

The Persian *bal-e-kila* or the Marathi *balle killa* was a term applied to the inner fortified area where the king or the fort commander stayed. It was usually built on the highest point within the fort. The most famous example of an extremely well fortified citadel is that of Rajgad. One wonders how construction material was taken up that steep scarp like side. Many land forts also had an inner enclosure where the palace of the king stood, protected by walls, bastions and even a ditch.

The Scarp

The scarp, to give it its popular meaning, is a near vertical rock face or cliff or mountain. It afforded natural protection where even "a lizard could not climb." Jivdhan has a scarp or precipice nearly 550 metres high. Galna has a sheer perpendicular wall nearly 300 metres high. Sometimes a scarp was artificially made by chiseling. Sundergad, Parali, Ankai-Tankai, and many others have artificial scarps along with natural ones.

Machi and Met

Machi was a term applied to any, more or less flat, piece of ground on the slope of the hill on which the fort was built, or even on top as part of the fort. *Machis* were always fortified and provided place for quartering the troops and for building water tanks or granaries. They also afforded a good gun position. The three narrow *machis* of Rajgad are justly famous. Mulher on the other hand had a very large and flat area, now known as

the *ropvatika* half way up the slope. Remains of two temples, water tanks and a palace can still be seen.

Met was a term applied to a small post or observation point on the slope of a fort. A small body of troops could be positioned there to keep an eye on what was going on below and give timely warning of any suspicious movement. Shivaji used Bhils and Kolis extensively to man these posts.

Jungles

Most of the hill forts were surrounded by jungles which made the approach difficult. Of course the other side of the picture is that it also concealed an advancing enemy. In fact the term *vanadurg* implies not only a fort situated in the midst of a forest, but the forest itself acting as a fort. A thickly forested ravine gave almost total protection to the locals who alone knew the secret paths and hideouts. There are a number of examples of an enemy force getting caught in such a ravine and cut to pieces by the defenders.

Glacis

Glacis was a sloping earthen mound built around the outer edge of a moat. Its purpose was to obstruct the enemy from too easy an approach and give a clearer field of fire to the defenders. The glacis at Ahmadnagar fort can still be made out.

Water Tanks and Granaries

No amount of fortification could make a fort formidable if the garrison was not provided with adequate food and drinking water. Construction of wells, tanks, cisterns as well as store houses for oil and grain, took the highest priority. A site otherwise suitable would be rejected if sufficient water was not available. Almost all forts have ruins of such tanks and store houses which were often cut out of rock. The East India Company officers destroyed many water tanks and cisterns so as to make the forts untenable. Some, like the Gangasagar at Raigad have survived. The very large granaries at Panhala are still in good shape and give an idea of the large storage capacity which was created.

4. CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL

The ramparts of most hill forts were made out of dressed or undressed blocks of rock or stone. Sometimes these blocks were just placed one on top of the other, and since mortar was not used, the base had to be very thick in order to sustain the weight of the wall. Mud and straw mortar was very common. Lime mortar is said to have been

introduced by the later Bahamanis. Molten lead was used by Shivaji at Sindhudurg. The steps and staircases of most hill forts were rock cut and thus did not involve use of any construction material. The ingenuity of the builder in carting heavy material over steep and difficult terrain and rock face defies imagination.

In the case of land forts it is probable that a ditch or moat was first dug and the excavated material was then used for building the walls. Flat bricks and stone set in mud or lime mortar became a very common feature during the 18th century. The use of wood was common but iron was not very common. One marvels at the sound condition of the wooden beams in the old structures even after a century and a half.

5. STATE OF MILITARY ENGINEERING

During my studies at various libraries and archives I searched in vain for any book or document which would contain engineering drawings or any other scientific or mathematical note relating to the construction of forts.⁴ During the construction of hill forts, the natural features such as scarps and contours of the hill, no doubt influenced the site and the plan of the fort. A wall or rampart was always built across an easy slope. But on what basis was the height and thickness of the walls or the siting of bastions determined is not clear. It is also odd to see a wall built on top of an inaccessible scarp. It was as if the wall was not to prevent an attacker from climbing in, but to prevent people on the fort from falling over the precipice! It is also said that all hill forts were defended mainly at the lower reaches but this is not entirely correct. The upper fort was almost always better fortified and sometimes walls were constructed across the contours of the hill (Mahur).

It may also be argued that many forts were of such great antiquity (Shivneri) that successive rulers could do no better than build or improve upon the older structures. But this was certainly not true of the majority of land forts, yet we have no records of the basis of construction.

Ramchandra Pant Amatya's *Anjyapatra* describes in moving terms the importance of forts, how personnel should be selected and what general feature were important. But very little is said about the tactical or military engineering considerations. This lack of a scientific approach, or evidence thereof, leads one to conclude that even great builders like Moropant Pingle relied more on rule of thumb and their intuitive knowledge. Generally speaking knowledge of military engineering was not advanced and this impaired the natural strength of the fort.⁵

This state of affairs is surprising. During the same period the art and science of fortification was far advanced in Europe. With considerable

contact between India and Europe by way of trade, travellers, and arrival of foreign powers one would have thought that this knowledge would have reached India and assimilated by Indian engineers and artisans. In fact, there is some evidence that non-native artificers with knowledge of European methods were employed by Indian rulers.⁶

Consider the work of Vauban (1633-1707).⁷ He utilized his knowledge of mathematics and experience as an active soldier to produce a number of drawings and calculations to show, scientifically, how a fort should be sited or how a bastion or other structures should be built. No such drawings are to be found in Mughal or Maratha archives.

6. ADMINISTRATION AND GARRISONING OF FORTS

Administration

The military system of the Marathas has been dealt with by many authors. Some works like "The Administrative System of the Marathas" and "The Military System of the Marathas" by Surendra Nath Sen have become classics and it is not necessary to repeat the system here. But two points must be made. It will be seen that instances where forts were captured after a gallant fight were few. More often than not they were captured by subterfuge, by bribes, by promises which were often not kept, and by cowardly retreat by the defenders. There is a great deal of differences between abandoning a fort and effecting a tactical retreat. The only exception to this state of affairs was the period of Shivaji who did not lose a single fort due to the above reasons. Even the famous incident of the surrender of Bhopalgad, east of Satara, to the Mughals was because of the fear of harming the young prince Sambhaji who rode at the head of the invading force side by side with the Mughals.

In a climate where loyalty often took a back seat, how did Shivaji achieve this enviable record? It was partly by adequately fortifying and provisioning the fort, partly by a careful selection of personnel, partly by imbuing his commanders with such a high sense of duty that giving up a fort was almost unthinkable. But above all he took the practical measure of ensuring that no fort was under the control of a single person. In almost every fort, certainly the larger and important ones, there were three officers of the same status and conjoint authority. They had their duties clearly laid down and had to consult with each other on all important matters. Documents required the signatures of two of them. The *Havildar*, from the Maratha caste, was in charge of the garrison and defense of the fort. The *Sabnis*, a Brahmin, was responsible for accounts. The *Karkhanis*, from the Prabhu caste was responsible for all commissariat work. The selection of officers from the three castes served the purpose of keeping a

check on each, but also made for inter-caste harmony since each had equal status. A further step was to see that officers were posted out to different forts after a tenure of three to five years. And most important of all, it was ensured that none of these posts became hereditary. It was a pity that these excellent measures were forgotten so soon after his death and therein lay the main cause of the decline of the intrinsic strength of the fort.

The Garrison

The garrison of the forts was mostly infantry in the hill forts and a mixed force in the land forts. Some hill forts such as Singhgad, Panhala had stables for a sizable cavalry force. The horses were normally left to graze at the base of the fort. The garrison was housed in barracks or tents, usually on the *machis*. Various tradesmen were also stationed. Carpenters, ironsmiths and armorers were to be found in most large forts. There was a person to shod a horse as also to set a bone. Detailed instructions were given to the officers to ensure the collection of grain and fodder in time and for preventing accidents.

In hill forts, especially during Shivaji's times, there was no place for persons who were not absolutely essential for the management of the forts. Thus, there were no camp followers. The latter were often seen in large land forts, especially when the fort was also the principal residence of the ruler. During the 18th century, as the importance of forts in military planning and operations declined, the quality of the garrison fell sharply. When forts were given to nobles in *inam* the garrison was almost wholly employed by the chief and the link and loyalty to central government was lost. This is considered as one of the main reason for the fall of the Maratha Confederacy.

7. ARMAMENTS

A great deal has been written about the armaments of the various rulers at various periods and these need not be repeated here. One point, however, needs to be mentioned as it appears that it has not received the attention that it deserves. Forts could be captured in a fight only by two methods. First, a part of the wall or rampart could be blown up by cannonade or mining and then an assault party could gain entrance, fan out, and perhaps succeed in opening the main gate from within to allow the bulk of the forces to enter. Second, the entry could be gained by escalading, wave after wave of attackers going over the top of the wall at either one point or at different points simultaneously. Fonda was captured by Shivaji by resorting to mining, Singhgad by escalade.

Mining was not easy in the case of hill forts. In the case of land forts very often cannons were not up to the mark and mining had to be resorted to (Vasai). Besieging a fort and forcing surrender through starvation was a long drawn out process if the fort was adequately provisioned. On the plains a fort could be tactically bypassed.

A special word is necessary regarding artillery. The Marathas, like other Indian princes, were not very good in this department even when they had the example of Babur before them and what artillery could do. The main weakness was the near total dependence on foreign powers for guns and ammunition. They charged more, sold guns of poor quality and often delayed shipments. Indian manufactured guns were reported "notoriously crude and clumsy."⁸

Even so, the significant thing is that artillery by itself did not spell the doom of forts during the better part of the 17th and 18th centuries. It must also be remembered that in those days guns fired only ball, or non-exploding shell. The success of the attackers artillery was mainly because the fort did not have enough guns for counter-bombardment. The guns within the fort were either too heavy or too light. In the former case they were fixed on rigid mounts and could not be traversed or elevated and depressed. The light guns could be moved along the rampart but did not have the range to silence the guns of the enemy. The huge gun at Narnala (photograph No. 32) was so heavy that it is doubtful if even fifty men could move it. It fired a heavy shell, but on a fixed line and all that the enemy had to do to avoid the shells was to advance a few metres on either side of the fixed trajectory.

The decline in the value of forts as defensive positions due to the ever increasing improvement in field artillery was inevitable, but the end was certainly hastened because the forts did not have effective counter bombardment capability. Artillery did play a significant role in many Anglo-Maratha wars, but it was field artillery against field forces. There were, on the other hand, instances where it was not artillery but the accurate and rapid infantry fire which won the day. It was British infantry fire that broke the last Maratha cavalry charge at Kirkee, and in was Indian infantrymen, under two British officers, who defeated the best of the Peshwa's troops at Koregaum. It must also be remembered that a great variety of missiles were used by the defenders of hill forts. Some of them were so difficult to reach that a handful of brave men could defend their charge against a vastly superior force as long as the provisions lasted. Armaments were not the deciding factor. It was the "men" and not the "machine" which was decisive.

NOTES

1. Ramachandra V.R., *War in Ancient India*, page 8.
2. Deshpande P.N., *Maratha Forts*, Unpublished doctoral thesis.
3. *Op. cit.*
4. Mate M.S. in *Maratha Architecture*, 1959 or V.C. Bendre in *Gad Kot, Durg, and Tyanchi Vastu* do not mention the existence of any engineering drawing of that period.
5. Lord Valentia, quoted by S.N. Sen in *The Military System of the Marathas*, page 80.
6. Percy Brown, *Indian Architecture*, Vol. I, page 47, 217.
7. Sebastian le Prestre de Vauban, to give him his full title. see I.V. Hogg, *Fortress, a History of Military Defense*.
8. Sen S.N., *Military System of the Marathas*, page 93.

LISTING, LOCATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF FORTS

1. LISTING OF FORTS

The listing of the forts of Maharashtra has so far been done in two ways—alphabetically and district-wise. A study of the listing done by various authors makes interesting reading and reveals many weaknesses.

D.V. Kale¹ lists 494 forts. Deleting the names which today fall outside Maharashtra, and cases of duplication and uncertainty, we still have an effective list of 294 forts. Mostly Western Maharashtra is covered. G.N. Dandekar² lists 208 forts districtwise, but only 10 out of the 30 districts of Maharashtra are covered. The book also provides a map but it is not to scale and the locations, at best, very approximate. Some forts shown in the map (Avar) are not in the list and some important forts (Salota) are not listed at all. Chitnis³ lists forts on the basis of old *prants*. The list also includes prants Karanataka, Bednur, and others which are disregarded for the purpose of this book. It suffers from the common defect that the locations are not given, or given accurately.

The Sabhasad Bakhar⁴ places the number at 240, stating that Shivaji built 111 forts, which is obviously wrong. Here again many names are included which cannot be now traced. Joglekar⁵ covers some forts but many names are missing. Desai⁶ gives the names of 656 forts. But there are a number of duplications and gadhis and fortified residences have been included. In many cases some very high figures are given. For example, it is stated that at one time Ratnagiri district alone had 365 forts but information is available for only 40 of them.⁷

The Gazetteers (for list of Gazetteers consulted, see Bibliographical note) lists a number of forts under the heading "Places of Interest" and there are stray references in the historical narrative but many forts are not listed (Abhasgad). Moreover forts which find a place in the older Gazettes (Campbell) do not find a place in the later issues (Maharashtra State,

District Gazetteers). There is a frequent reference to a book "Government List of Civil Forts" but the name of the author, editor, publisher, is not given and the staff at the libraries of the Asiatic Society, Bombay, The Bombay Archives, or the Deccan College, Poona, could not trace the book.

Finally, the Survey of India Maps are useful in locating the forts. A total of 37 sheets in the scale 1:250 000, *i.e.* 1 cm = 2500 mtrs cover Maharashtra. Very often, however, even important forts are not shown and for them one has to refer to the sub sheets 1 to 16 of each sheet which are in the scale of 1: 50000. There are even larger maps, called the village maps, available with the forest department. I was unable to get many vital maps for various reasons.

Based on all the available data and a great amount of sifting and identification, I have placed the number of forts whose location can be identified with reasonable certainty, at 463. Four lists are placed at the end of the book in the form of appendices. These are :

- (a) An Alphabetical List (Appendix A)
- (b) A District-wise List. (Appendix B)
- (c) A List of Alternate Names, or Forts Known by More Than One Name. (Appendix C)
- (d) List of Unidentified Fort Names. (Appendix D)

A special note is necessary regarding the Unidentified Forts. The list contains about 150 names but is by no means exhaustive. I have tried to include only those names which appear in more than one source. Also, new names keep cropping up in narrative histories, without any clue as to their location. The list has some alternative names which have not been sufficiently tested to warrant their inclusion in List of Alternative Names. Thus, Pradhangad is most likely to be the same as Prabalgad. Gajdere is almost certain to be the same as Dhere near Chalisgaum. Kapalgad and Dhapalgad are likely to be the same but spelled differently by different authors. Some names can be located but they cannot be said to be forts. If Jejurigad is the present Jejuri then it cannot really be categorized as a fort, although there are some fortifications.

The case of some forts is most perplexing. Aliberi, Sabalgad Udaigad are very clearly mentioned as the forts surrendered by Shivaji to Mirza Raja Jai Singh at the Treaty of Purandar, in 1665. Yet their location, or their later names, cannot be identified with any certainty. Another factor that has to be taken note of is that boundaries have changed. Parasgad was very much in Shivaji's kingdom but now lies outside Maharashtra.

Nairne⁸ records that in 1341 A.D. the State of Jawhar had 22 forts. Had he given the names and locations it would have been possible to identify many which are now in Nasik District.

2. LOCATION OF FORTS

There are two correct methods of describing or noting the location of any place :

- (a) By reference to the Latitude and Longitude.
- (b) By reference to the bearing and distance from a known land mark.

For example : *Panhala* : 16°47' North latitude, and
74°07' East longitude.

or

Bearing 230 degrees, 16.5 kms from Kolhapur

The former method is the better one, especially as a known land mark may not always be found near a location. On the other hand, the bearing method is more handy, especially when grided maps are not available. Both methods have been used in this book. However, in view of the non-availability of large scale maps, an error of about $\pm 30'$ may have to be accepted. In some cases, descriptions have enabled me to get the exact location. For example, Vasantgad has been described in Shivaji Souvenir as "5 miles West of Karad". Gogte does not give any location while the Gazetteer merely states that it is "four miles East of Karad. This confusion could be resolved because the description that the fort "can be seen both from the Satara — Kolhapur National Highway and the Chiplun — Kolhapur State Highway was adequate to pin point the location on Sheet 47 H.

3. CLASSIFICATION OF FORTS.

The forts have so far been classified on the basis of their topography, *i.e.*, whether they were built on islands, on the plains or on top of hills. This has been so from ancient times. The Vedas, the Vedic Kalpasutras, the Puranas have all something to say about forts. Generally the classification has been based on topography. Begde⁹ holds the view that the classification given in Ashwanasa Dhanurveda was universally accepted in India for centuries.

The word 'durg' derives from the Sanskrit 'durgam', *i.e.*, difficult and has been used to denote different types of forts—*bhudurg* or land forts, *giridurg* or hill forts, *jaladurg* or sea forts and *dhavandurg* or desert forts. The semantic difference between *gad*, *durg*, and *kot*, should be noted as generally they apply to hill, sea, and land forts respectively. The term

vanadurg denotes not only forts situated in a forest, but the forest itself acting as a fort.

The listing in the Shivaji Souvenir gives the following explanatory note:

J — Janjira, fort surrounded by water and built on a rock.

Do — Dongari, built on a hill.

Bhu — Bhuikot, built for the protection of a town.

Cha — Chavani, built on the bend of a river, a fortified stronghold.

This classification is neither logical nor comprehensive. Retaining the topographical base I have defined four types, using the term 'category' in place of 'classification' which I use in the functional context. The four categories are :

(a) *Island Fort*. (IF) Forts built on an island, or a rocky outcrop of a mountain now submerged under the sea. The main use of such forts would be to act as naval depots, or ship building yards, and to control maritime operations on the open seas.

(b) *Coastal Fort*. (CF) Forts built on the sea shore, on the banks of a creek or the mouth of a river, whether on flat ground or on a hill. Those built on a hill are suffixed "H". The main purpose of such forts would be to control and administer the coastal region, upto the western edge of the Sahyadri where necessary.

(c) *Hill Forts*. (HF). Forts built on mountains or hills, on the crest of a range or at the tip of a spur before it merges with the plains. Militarily they were used mainly in defensive roles.

(d) *Land Forts*. (LF). Forts built on the plains, or on a hill completely surrounded by plains. Those built on a hill could be suffixed 'H'. The main use of such forts would be to control lines of communication and to provide a capital or residence for a ruler.

Although I have retained the categories based on location, the need is not fully satisfied by this means alone. Forts played a role not only based on their topography but more so based on their size, their strength and their capabilities. It is, therefore, surprising that a functional classification has not yet been made. I classify forts into three main classes.

(a) *Main Forts*. (MF) A large fort, capable of holding a garrison of over 500 troops, well stocked with weapons and munitions, well provisioned, capable of withstanding a long siege, and from where offensive and defensive sorties could be mounted.

(b) *Secondary Forts.* (SF) A fairly large fort, capable of holding a garrison of more than 200 troops, adequately stocked to withstand a siege of moderate duration, and the main function of which was defensive in nature and to act as an extension of the main fort and increase the latter's area of control.

(c) *Fortified Post.* (FP) A small fort, not capable of holding a garrison of more than 200 troops, not capable of withstanding a siege of any significant duration, and whose main function was to act as a screen to the main or secondary fort, and to increase the range of reconnaissance, patrolling and communications.

The above categories and classification ensures a proper appreciation of the political and military role and capabilities of the forts.

4. THE CLUSTER AND LINE APPROACH.

If the locations of the forts are marked on a map, it will be seen that the forts of Western Maharashtra are located very close to each other and can be grouped into clusters. It can be further shown that each cluster had one or two main forts and secondary forts and a number of fortified outposts. From this historical fact is developed the cluster approach to the study of forts. The location of forts in a cluster and the proximity of one cluster to another made for both inter-cluster and intra-cluster support. In modern terminology it may be said that this feature provided defense indepth. To what extent it was so and other points relating to defense indepth are covered in a later chapter. 26 such clusters have been identified. They are located in the present districts of Dhule, Thane, Nasik, Pune, Raigad, Satara, Kolhapur, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg. The description of forts in the next chapter is done cluster-wise.

In the case of land forts there are no clusters as such. The forts appear to be more or less evenly spaced along the present northern, eastern, southern borders of Maharashtra and along the eastern edge of the Sahyadris, or east of the Maval. This leaves the area within these borders, *i.e.*, in the hinterland of Maharashtra. The description of forts is thus, cluster-wise, then line-wise, and then forts located in the 'box' formed by these lines.

An important feature of the cluster approach, indeed its guiding point, is determining the area which each main fort could effectively bring under its military, political and administrative control. This area can best be determined in terms of a 'circle of control' with its centre resting on the main fort and with a definite radius. The circle thus drawn limits the boundary of the cluster.

Determining this yard stick, the radius, presents some difficulty. It will depend upon various factors such as : terrain ; strength and size of the fort and the facilities available on it ; strength of the garrison ; mobility of troops ; lines and means of communication ; motivation of the commander ; social and economic condition of the people ; and the existence or otherwise of external threat. Out of all the above, mobility appears to be the most vital. It can also be quantified. Mobility in this context would mean the linear distance that the troops from the fort could cover in a day, not as a military operation, but at a pace which would enable them to enforce the king's laws and maintain the king's peace. To use modern yard sticks would be totally wrong and some instances from that era have to be examined.

In 1573 A.D., Akbar rode with 3000 horse from Fatehpur Sikri to Ahmadabad to put down a rebellion. He covered the distance (and crushed the rebellion) of 600 miles in 9 days. This gives an advance of nearly 60 miles a day. In his case the urgency was great, the route was over flat and known ground and there was no great consideration for the strain put on men and horses.

In 1657-58 Shivaji covered a distance of nearly 1100 kms. in 105 days. He left Purandar on the 1st October, 1657 and going upto Kalyan on a fact finding and support gathering mission, returned via Raigad on 13th January, 1658. This gives a daily advance of 10 kms. but it should be noted that the pace was leisurely and he travelled both on horseback and in a *palkhi*.

Irvine¹⁰ has given some tables showing the speed of the Mughal army, which was painfully slow. Aurangzeb took 18 days to cover a distance of 32 kms. between Poona and Sasvad. This gives an advance of only 1.7 kms per day !

Taking all these factors into consideration, mobility being the main one, I have fixed 30 kms and 50 kms as the radius for the hill and land forts respectively. Clusters have been drawn with this radius and represent a fair estimate of the area that could be effectively controlled. Some claims, such as the one which says that the control of Panhala meant controlling 100 miles of territory around it¹¹ can safely be ignored.

NOTES

1. *Shivaji Souvenir*, Marathi Section, page 66.
2. Dandekar G.N., *Kille*, page 109.
3. Chitnis M.R., *Shri Shivachhatrapatinchi Saptaprakranatmak Charitra* (Chitnis Bakhar), Ed by R.V. Harwadkar, page 155.

4. Joshi S.N. (Ed). *Sabhasad Bakhar*, page 104
5. Joglekar S.A., *Sahyadri*, page 114.
6. Desai R., *Shivaji, The Last Great Fort Architect.*, page 172.
7. Gogte, *Forts*, Volume II, page 80.
8. Nairne, *Konkan*, page 25.
9. Bagde P.V., *Forts and Palaces of India*, page 4.
10. Irvine W., *The Army of the Indian Mughals*.
11. Shrikhande K.V., *Karveer Dusara Shivaji*, page 107

THE FORTS DESCRIBED

In this chapter the forts have been described cluster-wise, line-wise and within the "box" formed by these lines. There are 26 clusters, from North to South in Western Maharashtra. The four lines are :

The Northern Line (NL) *i.e.*, forts along the northern boundary of present Maharashtra ; The Eastern Line (EL) along the eastern boundary ; the Southern Line (SL) along the southern boundary and the Western Line (WL) along the western edge of the plateau, and the eastern edge of the clusters. Forts which are not included in the clusters or lines, *i.e.*, those lying in the hinterland or the "box" are described district-wise.

The descriptions are under standard headings as follows :

- Col. 1. Alphabetical Serial Number.
2. Name of the Fort.
 3. Alternate Name (Other Name)
 4. District in which the fort is located.
 5. Map co-ordinates. All latitudes are North and all longitudes are East.
 6. Bearing and Distance from a Known Landmark.
 7. Category of the Fort, with height in case of hill forts given in metres ASL
 8. Classification of the Fort.
 9. Name of the Cluster/Line in which the fort stands.
 10. Built by and when.
 11. Physical Description.
 12. Historical Data.

The following abbreviations have been used in the descriptions and the drawings.

- ASL. : Above Sea Level.
 Bt. : Bastion.
 Bv. : Base Village.

Cv.	: Cave(s)
C.F.	: Coastal Fort.
Deg.	: Degrees.
Dist.	: District.
E.L.	: Eastern Line.
F.P.	: Fortified Post.
Ft.	: Fort.
Gaz.	: Gazetteer(s)
Ge.	: Gun Emplacement.
G.	: Gate.
H.	: Hill
H.F.	: Hill Fort.
Ht.	: Height.
I.F.	: Island Fort.
Kms.	: Kilometres.
Kille	: Kille by G.N. Dandekar.
L.C.	: Line(s) of Communication(s)
L.F.	: Land Fort.
M.F.	: Main Fort.
mtrs.	: Metres.
NL	: Northern Line.
NN	: Not Necessary.
NK	: Not Known with any Certainty.
?	: Doubtful, Not Verified.
RS	: Railway Station.
Rp.	: Rampart.
Sc.	: Scarp.
S.F.	: Secondary Fort.
S.L.	: Southern Line.
S.S.	: Shivaji Souvenir.
St.	: Steps.
T.	: Tank
W.	: Well.
Wa.	: Wall.
W.L.	: Western Line.
	: Temple. : Mosque.

Important Note : It should be noted that the maps are NOT to scale. The figures are also not to scale and are not exact. The maps and diagrams are intended to give only a general idea about the location and layout of the forts.

CLUSTER NUMBER 1. THE NANDURBAR CLUSTER.

This Cluster has seven forts : Nandurbar, Bhamer, Dusana, Khanapur, Khoparli, Shahada, and Taloda. (Fig. 3)

This is the northern most cluster in Western Maharashtra, lying below the western extremities of the Satpura Range. It must have acted as the first buffer between Khandesh and Baglan. Although Nandurbar did not have a large fort, it has been taken as the hub of the cluster due to its location.

1. N. 7.
2. Nandurbar.
3. ---
4. Dhule.
5. 21.22° Lat., 74. 15' Long.
6. NN
7. L.F.
8. S.F
9. Nandurbar Cluster.
10. N.K. but ancient.
11. The fort was not large or extensive and it has been engulfed by the town.
12. The town of Nandurbar is certainly of great antiquity. It has been mentioned as "Nandigriha" in the Kanheri Cave inscriptions of the 3rd century. In 1342 A.D. Ibn Batuta recorded that the place was inhabited by the Marathas. During the 16th century it was with the Gujarat Sultans, with the Mughals during the 17th and 18th centuries till over run by the expanding Maratha forces after 1736 A.D. Thus some fortifications must have existed from ancient times. Its importance was due to its location astride an important L.C.

1. B. 25.
2. **Bhamer.**
3. ---
4. Dhule.

5. 21.04° Lat., 74.19' Long.
6. 290 deg., 47 kms from Dhule.
7. H.F., Ht., 745 mtrs., ASL.
8. S.F./F.P.
9. Nandurbar Cluster.
10. Gavli Kings in?
11. The fort was built on the eastern edge of a hill which has a number of old caves known locally as Nizampur caves. Its western edge has a chasm. Walls and natural scarp added to its strength. The ascent was comparatively easy, the main gate being located in the south face. A remarkable feature of the fort was that all the rooms were built underground. The fort is now in a very dilapidated condition.
12. Historical data is not available. Militarily it must have played some role as the main route from Gujarat to Dhulia passed near it.

1. D. 28.
2. **Dusana.**
3. ---
4. Dhule.
5. 21.09' Lat., 74.24' Long.
6. 65 deg., 11 kms from Nizampur.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Nandurbar Cluster.
10. NK but pre 1600 A.D.
11. The fort is not mentioned in the Gaz. or SS. but is clearly shown as such in SI map, Sheet 47-K-8 and hence included. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. K. 36.
2. **Khanapur.**
3. ---
4. Dhule.
5. 21°09' Lat., 74°08' Long.
7. L.F./H., Ht., 703 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Nandurbar Cluster.

10. NK
11. The fort was situated close to the base village of Navapur on a more or less detached hill. It is on the present border of Dhulia and Gujarat. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical information is not available. It may have acted as an outpost to check the influx from Dang area.

1. K. 49.
2. **Koparli.**
3. Ranala.
4. Dhule.
5. 21°26' Lat., 74°26' Long.
6. 70 deg., 20 kms. from Nandurbar.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Nandurbar Cluster.
10. NK
11. The fort is not included in the Gaz. or SS but is shown in SI map, Sheet 46-7 and hence included. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available. Militarily it may have served as a link between Shahada in the west and Thalner in the east.

1. S. 21.
2. **Shahada.**
3. ---
4. Dhule.
5. 21°29' Lat., 74°16' Long.
6. 25 deg., 10 kms. from Nandurbar.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Nandurbar Cluster.
10. NK but ancient.
11. The Gaz. lists it as an old fort now being used as government offices. Physical description is not given.
12. Historical data is not available. It was, possibly, a northern screen for Nandurbar.

1. T. 4.
2. **Taloda.**
3. ---
4. Dhule.
5. 21°34' Lat., 74°14' Long.
6. 355 deg., 21 kms. from Nandurbar.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Nandurbar Cluster.
10. NK but pre 1600 A.D.
11. The Gaz. does not give any physical description but merely states that it was in good repair in 1822 A.D.
12. Historical data is not available. It must have served as an outpost to Akhrani. Also it is North of the river Tapi, and close enough to control the river crossing at that point.

CLUSTER NUMBER 2. THE MULHER CLUSTER

The cluster contains two main forts—Mulher and Salher—which is rather unusual. It has two secondary forts, the rest being fortified outposts. Besides Muler and Salher, it has fifteen other forts—Chauler, Dermal, Dhamnya, Hanumangad, Hatgad, Kachana, Karhe, Mangi, Nhavi Killa, Pimpalner, Pisol, Raipur, Salota, Tambolya and Tungi. See Figure 4.

It is a key cluster controlling the entire Baglan area. Yet, the need for having so many forts, so close to each other, cannot be explained or justified on military grounds. This aspect has been dealt with in Chapter 7. However, it may be remarked that if the Nandurbar cluster in the North was a screen, the Mulher cluster provided the substance for the defence of the Nasik area.

The age old routes—Surgana-Vani-Gharkhed-Satana, and Pimpalner-Tahirabad-Satana, pass through this cluster. I have travelled quite a bit in this area and have felt that there was a need for a history of Baglan and its people, the Bhils and the Konkanas, a need which I hope to meet at a future date.

1. M. 45.
2. **Mulher.** (See Fig. 5 and Photographs No 1 (a) and (b))
3. Auranggad, Morgad, Hargad, Mayurgad.
4. Nasik.
5. 20°47' Lat., 74°04' Long.

6. 269 deg., 8.5 kms, from Taharabad.
7. H.F., Ht., 1306 mtrs., ASL.
8. M.F.
9. Mulher Cluster.
10. Ancient.
11. The fort was built on the eastern end of a short range which rises from the main Sahyadri. Known as Mayurgad in the 14th century, it is today recognised as a composite fort with two fortified peaks, Hargad and Auranggad. The approach is from the Mulher village, lying about two kilometres in the North. There are two paths, each crossing three gates and ending at an extensive *machi* about half way up the slope. It is full of trees and is known locally as the *ropvatika*. It is enclosed by wall and bastions, which are now in ruins. On the *machi* can be found the remains of many buildings, two main temples, and numerous tanks. From the Ropvatika a steep path, interspersed with steps, passes along the scarp, and a large cave, and then through a wide crevice to the top. There are numerous ruins and there used to be three guns known by the names Fateh-i-lashkar, Ramprasad and Shivprasad. A short ridge connects it to the other peak the path passing through a solitary gate. Both the ridge and the gate can be clearly seen in the photographs
12. Legend has it that the fort was built in the time of the Pandavas by two brothers, Mayurdhwaj and Tamardhwaj. In Tarikh-i-Firozshahi it is recorded that in 1380 A.D. the fort was held by King Mandev. Ain (1590 A.D.) notes it as one of the main Mughal strongholds in Baglan. It was with the Mughals in 1771 when Shivaji captured Salher. Its fall to the E.I.C. signalled the end of the 3rd Anglo-Maratha war.

The military importance of the fort, indeed, the cluster as a whole has been covered in Chapter 7.

1. S. 6.
2. **Salher.** (See Fig. 6 and Photograph No. 2)
3. Salir, Saler, in Persian records.
4. Nasik.
5. 20°42' Lat., 73°56' Long.
6. 245 deg., 15 kms., from Mulher village.
7. H.F., Ht., 1507 mtrs., ASL.
8. M.F.
9. Mulher Cluster.
10. Rathod Kings, early 14th century.

11. Salher was built on a high hill with steep sides and scarps on two sides. The base villages are Vaghambhe in the north, Mahardar in the south and the Salher hamlet quite close to the west. The route is from Vaghambhe and is moderately difficult. It passes through two gates with some steps near them. It then ascends the col between Salher and Salota and going across the face of the hill reaches the top. The area here is flat except for a steep hillock which has a temple built on it. Ruins of buildings and fortifications can be seen. The *samadhi* of Suryaji Kakde, a childhood friend of Shivaji, who fell at the Battle of Salher, is at one edge.
12. Salher came into prominence during the time of the Rathod kings who normally ruled from Mulher. The fort passed through many hands, the King of Gujarat, Mughals, Marathas, then Mughals again and finally captured by the Peshwas. Although the main thrust of the Marathas during the Peshwa period was northwards, mainly along the Burhanpur axis, Salher retained its importance as an administrative base. The name of Salher will forever be associated with the famous Battle of Salher fought by Shivaji, one of the few battles where Shivaji used classical tactics.

1. C. 13.
2. **Chauler.** (See Fig. 7)
3. Tilwan.
4. Nasik
5. 20°33' Lat., 74.04' Long.
6. 260 deg., 10 kms., from Satana.
7. H.F., Ht., 1182 mts., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Mulher Cluster.
10. NK
11. A spur descends South East of Salher and the fort was built at its tip. The base village is Wadi Chauler, but the fort is known locally by the name Tilwan. The path is rough and steep and passes close to a ledge and reaches the top to a single gate. There are a few steps right at the top. Ruins of wall, a bastion and a tower like structure can be seen. There are also some caves and a temple.
12. Historical information about the fort is not available. The military value may have been as a link fort connecting the Mulher group in the North with the Chandvad cluster in the South.

1. D. 10.
2. **Dermal.** (See Fig. 8)
3. ---
4. Dhule.
5. 20°51' Lat., 74°16' Long.
6. 266 deg., 45 kms. from Dhule.
7. H.F., Ht., 1076 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Mulher Cluster.
10. Gavli Kings, 14th century.
11. Dermal fort had very strong natural position and did not need too many fortifications. There are some very ancient caves on the hill side.
12. Historical data is not available. Militarily it might have been, along with Pisol, important outposts West of Malegaum and East of Mulher.

1. D. 17.
2. **Dhamnya.** (See Fig. 9)
3. ---
4. Nasik.
5. 20°50' Lat., 74°00' Long.
6. 210 deg., 8.5 kms. from Mulher
7. H.F., Ht., 1277 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Mulher Cluster.
10. NK but pre 1600 A.D.
11. It was a rugged fort with steep sides and scarp at certain places. The base villages are Mahalungi and Borhate. The track from Borhate passes about 2 kms. East of the fort and ascent from this side is very difficult. The track from Mahalunge, after a stiff clumb, leads to the top where there are about thirty steps. There are ruins of a gate, some portion of a wall and a bastion. There is also a small shrine at the top but an idol was not seen. The top is covered by thick scrub jungle. The locals warned me to be careful as jackals and panthers are to be found taking shelter in the dense growth.
12. There is no record of any event of historical importance having taken place at the fort. According to local legend the fort, along with others in the range, was used to house the siblings and sons of the King of Mulher.

1. H. 2.
2. **Hanumangad.**
3. ---
4. Nasik
5. 20°52' Lat., 74°56' Long.
6. 292 deg., 14 kms. from Mulher.
7. H.F., Ht., 1062 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Mulher Cluster.
10. Gavli Kings, pre 1500 A.D. ?
11. It was the most distant of the ring of forts around Mulher. It had a small area with steep and scarped sides, alternating with ridges or terraces which is a characteristic feature of the range. The track is from the base village of Babulne and is very steep at places. There are no steps and beyond a certain point the help of a local guide becomes essential. There are no clear traces of any fortifications and only a gateway like structure could be seen. There is a temple of Shankar at the top and local legend has it that the hill was the abode of the sage Vashisht.
12. The fort does not find a place in Gaz. or SS. Local tradition has it that prisoners were kept here. Other historical data is not available.

1. H. 6.
2. **Hatgad.** (See Fig. 10 and Photograph No. 3)
3. ---
4. Nashik
5. 20°32' Lat., 73°46' Long.
6. 333 deg., 26 kms. from Vani.
7. H.F., Ht., 1097 mtrs., ASL.
8. S.F.
9. Mulher Cluster.
10. NK but pre 1600 A.D.
11. The fort is on the eastern edge of the Sahyadri overlooking the plains of Surgana. It was built on a flat top hill which is not very high. But what it lacked in natural defences was more than made up by fortifications consisting of a wall, a rampart, bastions and rock cut gates. Near the gates the passage is often 'roofed', reminding one of Deogiri. Two water tanks at the top survive and are named Ganga and Jamuna. There are ruins of a few buildings and a bastion which may have served both as a protection to the citadel and as a granary.

12. Historical data is not available. This is surprising as the location and strength of the fort make it obvious that it must have been a secondary fort of some importance. It could have effectively controlled the route between Maharashtra and Gujarat passing through Surgana and Nasik. Tactically, however, it does not appear to have had a good location as a higher hill is close by.

1. K. 1.
2. **Kachan.**
3. ---
4. Nasik.
5. 20°37' Lat., 74°02' Long.
6. 271 deg., 18 kms. from Satana.
7. H.F., Ht., 1137 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Mulher Cluster.
10. NK
11. The fort is not listed in the Gaz. or SS. The latter shows only Kamchana in the Chandvad Cluster. However, the fort is clearly shown, named and marked "fort in ruins" in SI map, Sheet 46-K-2, and hence included here.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. K. 26
2. **Karhe.**
3. ---
4. Nasik.
5. 20°39' Lat., 74°14' Long.
6. 30 deg., 10 kms. from Satana.
7. H.F., Ht., 935 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Mulher Cluster.
10. NK
11. The fort is not mentioned in SS but is clearly shown in SI map, Sheet 46-K-2 and hence included. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. M. 27.
2. **Mangi.** (See Photograph No. 4)
3. ---
4. Nasik.
5. 20°51' Lat., 74°06' Long.
6. 20 deg., 8 kms., from Mulher.
7. H.F., Ht., 1326 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Mulher Cluster.
10. Ancient ?
11. Mangi and Tungi are twin peaks separated by a flat ridge less than a kilometre wide. The hills have the characteristic feature of horizontal ridges. The base villages are Vadakhil and Bhilvad. The track passes along the cliff face to the middle flat portion from where there is access to both the peaks. There is a ruin of what must have been a water tank at this point. Jain caves are to be found at both the places. There is no trace of any wall, bastion, or gate.
12. Mangi and Tungi have been listed as forts by many authors. However, the absence of any fortifications raises some doubt. At best they
Pimpalner plains. Local inhabitants say that till about fifty years ago no Hindu would go to Mangi or Tungi. The reasons were, firstly, the hills were obviously Jain *viharas* and Hindus were prohibited from visiting Jain shrines. Secondly, the pinnacles at either end represented *shivlingas* and how could any Hindu trod on them ! On the balance of evidence, I would hesitate to call them as forts, but accept that they must have served as good observation posts for the garrison at Mulher.

1. N. 13.
2. **Nhavi Killa.** (See Fig. 11)
3. Ratangad.
4. Nasik.
5. 20°50' Lat., 74°03' Long.
6. 343 deg., 7.5 kms. from Mulher.
7. H.F., Ht., 1259 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Mulher Cluster.
10. NK but certainly pre 1600 A.D.

11. The fort has a peculiar profile, quite different if viewed from the South, *i.e.* Mulher side and if seen from the West or North-West. It was a small but a formidable fort and is in a much better state of preservation than its neighbours. It has a flat top with a high pinnacle at its southern end. The approach is from the base village Vadakhal and is quite steep. There are a few steps at the top. Entry was through two gates now in ruins. Remanents of old buildings and rampart are seen. Local folks say that sometimes a tiger resides on the fort.
12. Historical data is not available. Legend has it that the royal barber, having been seduced by the King's uncle, cut of the royal head while shaving ! Hence also the name *Nhavi* (barber) Killa.

1. P. 27.
2. **Pimpalner.**
3. ---
4. Dhule.
5. 20°55' Lat., 74°07' Long.
6. 358 deg., 20 kms. from Taharabad.
7. L.F.
8. F.F
9. Mulher Cluster.
10. NK but certainly pre 1600 A.D.
11. The fort was on the western side of the village but now there is no trace.
12. Historical information about the fort is not available. However, Pimplaner was on the main route from Khandesh to Nasik and the fort must have played some role.

1. P. 28.
2. **Pisol.**
3. Dighve.
4. Nasik.
5. 20°51' Lat., 74°12' Long.
6. 355 degs., 7 kms. from Jaikheda.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Mulher Cluster.
10. NK but pre 1600 A.D.

11. Pisol was built on a hill overlooking the Pisol Pass. However, this pass was not as important, or frequently used, as the Selbari Pass further west. People on the north of the range call it the Dighve fort. It had natural protection. The approach is from the base village Pisolwadi and is not very difficult. The fort is in ruins.
12. Historical data is not available. It may have played the role of controlling the route passing through the Pisol Pass.

1. R. 3.
2. **Raipur.**
3. Sometimes as Rajkot.
4. Dhule.
5. 20°06' Lat., 73°47' Long.
6. 305 degs., 30 kms. from Pimpalner.
7. L.F./H.
8. F.P.
9. Mulher Cluster.
10. NK
11. The gaz. lists Raipur as a fort but nothing more is given.
12. Historical data is not available. it might have played some role as an outpost on the Uchchal-Pimpalner route.

1. S. 7.
2. **Salota.** (See Fig. 6 see Photograph No. 2)
3. ---
4. Nasik.
5. 20°42' Lat., 73°56' Long.
6. 245 degs., 14.5 kms. from Mulher.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Mulher Cluster.
10. NK
11. It is a shapely fort and was a satellite to Salher. The route is the same as for Salher up to the col from where a path leads to a rocky staircase and then along caves and water tanks to the top. Ruins of fortifications are seen.

12. Salota's history is connected with that of Salher. Its importance must not have been significant as its name is not mentioned in the descriptions of the Battle of Salher.

1. T. 6.
2. **Tambolya.**
3. ---
4. Nasik.
5. 20°51' Lat., 74°03' Long.
6. 02 degs., 7 kms. from Mulher.
7. H.F., Ht., 1291 mtrs. ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Mulher Cluster.
10. NK
11. Tambolya was a steep, scarped fort. The base village was Vadakhal. The fort is connected with Mangi in the East and Nhavi Killa in the West by high ridges. The route from Vadakhel cuts across the western slope to the hamlet of Damandh and then up a steep slope to the top. There are few ruins, a temple and a gun emplacement can be made out.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. T. 22.
2. **Tungi.** (See Photograph No. 4)
3. ---
4. Nasik.
5. Same as Mangi.
6. Same as Mangi.
7. H.F., Ht., 1340 mtrs. ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Mulher Cluster.
10. Ancient.
11. Please see under Mangi.
12. Please see under Mangi.

CLUSTER NUMBER 3. THE LALING CLUSTER.

Besides Laling, the cluster has seven forts : Dhulia, Galna, Kankrala, Malegaum, Ramgad, Sakri and Songir. See Figure 12.

Contrary to popular belief, Laling Cluster is, strategically and tactically, far more important than the Mulher cluster. The two main routes from the North, Sendhwa-Shirpur, and the more famous Burhanpur-Jalgaum, meet at Dhule from where the road goes down to Malegaum and Nasik. The modern highway corresponds very closely to the medieval routs.

Laling was of great importance to the Faruqui kings, even, in some respects, of greater value than Thalner. Thus from about 1300 A.D. the forts of this cluster have played an important military role.

1. L. 1.
2. **Laling.** (See Fig. 13 and Photograph No. 5)
3. ---
4. Dhule.
5. 20°51' Lat., 74°44' Long.
6. 195 deg., 9.6 kms. from Dhule.
7. H.F. Ht. 593 mtrs. ASL.
8. M.F.
9. Laling Cluster.
10. Faruqui Kings, pre 1300 A.D.
11. The fort was built on a nearly isolated hill very close to the present Dhule-Malegaum National Highway. The approach is from the village and is not very difficult. There appear to be two lines of fortifications and two gates. The fort is in ruins and fast crumbling to dust.
12. Historical information about the fort centres around the Faruqui kings. Being on the main route it had considerable military significance and was used as a depot by the Mughals. With the Marathas, it did not enjoy its former status.

1. D. 23.
2. **Dhule.**
3. Devpur.
4. Dhule.
5. 20°53' Lat., 74°46' Long.
6. NN
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Laling Cluster.

10. NK
11. Dhule had a small fort at the edge of the town. At one time the town was totally deserted and was re-populated by the Vinchur-kar family after a lot of difficulty. The fort was washed away in the floods of 1872 A.D. and description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. G. 2.
2. **Galna.** (See Figure 14)
3. Kelna.
4. Nasik.
5. 20°46' Lat., 74°31' Long.
6. 02 deg. 25 kms. from malegaum.
7. H.F., Ht. 483 mtrs. ASL.
8. S.F.
9. Laling Cluster.
10. NK but pre 1500 A.D.
11. The fort was built on a low detached hill. The approach is from the northern side by a broad flight of steps. The other sides are steep. There was a lower wall about half way up the hill and another at the top nearly surrounding the whole fort. There were four gateways. On a bastion of the upper wall there is an inscription dating the building of the bastion to 1593 A.D. The fort is now in ruins.
12. Galna has a long history and many facts are available. It was originally with the Faruquis but passed to a Maratha chief in 1478 when two brothers, Malik Waji and Malik Ashraf from Daulatabad captured it. Galna has witnessed the hoisting of many flags, Nizamshahi (1500), Marathas (1610), Nizamshahi again in 1630, the Mughals (1634) and the *Bhagwa Jhenda* from about 1706 A.D. till the Union Jack was hoisted in 1804 A.D. Galna, along with Laling, provided the main line of defence to the plains of Dhule and Malegaum.

1. K. 15.
2. **Kankrala.**
3. Kankadi.
4. Nasik.
5. 20°37' Lat., 74°19' Long.
6. 290 deg., 22 kms. from Malegaum.

7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Laling Cluster.
10. NK
11. The fort was built on a small hill. It was broad on its southern side and narrowed down to a rounded area in the North. There was a single gate protected by two bastions. Ruins of fortifications, a well with steps and a temple can be seen.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. M. 21.
2. **Malegaum.** (See Figure 16)
3. ---
4. Nasik.
5. 20°31' Lat., 74°31' Long.
6. NN
7. L.F.
8. S.F.
9. Laling Cluster.
10. Maratha Chief, Naroshankar Dani in 1670 A.D.
11. It was a very strong fort protected by three lines of walls. The first is now totally incorporated in the town. Traces of a second wall can still be seen. The third is in a fair shape. Within this was the fort with ramparts 4.5 mtrs. high and about a metre thick. The main rampart was about 12 mtrs. high and about 2 to 3 mtrs. thick. Besides bastions, the fort had many towers or minarets some of them surviving to the present day. The arrangement of gates was intricate. Today the fort houses a school and some offices.
12. Malegaum town has a very long history and was an important trading centre. It must have had a fort from ancient times but little is known about it and the present fort is attributed to Naraoshankar. It played some role as a Depot with the Mughals and the E.I.C.

1. R. 10.
2. **Ramgad.**
3. ---
4. Dhule.
5. 20°47' Lat., 74°39' Long.

6. 255 deg., 11 kms. from Laling.
7. H.F., Ht., 684 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Laling Cluster.
10. NK
11. The fort is not listed in the Gaz or SS but is clearly shown in SI map, Sheet 46-L-9 and hence included. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available. Its location makes it an ideal link fort between Laling and Galna.

1. S. 5.
2. **Sakri.**
3. ---
4. Dhule.
5. 20°58' Lat., 74°18' Long.
6. 292 deg., 40 kms. from Dhule.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Laling Cluster.
10. NK
11. Sakri is not included in SS or Gaz. but is shown on SI map, Sheet 46-L-5 and hence included. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available. It could have provided a screen to Pimpalner on the West and Dhule on the East.

1. S. 43.
2. **Songir.** (See Figure 17)
3. ---
4. Dhule.
5. 21°05' Lat., 74°45' Long.
6. 01 (North), 20 kms from Dhule.
7. L.F./H
8. F.P.
9. Laling Cluster
10. NK but pre 1500 A.D.
11. It was a strong fort with a narrow shape, about 470 mtrs. long but only about 40 mtrs. wide. It had strong ramparts of uncut stone and a

gate with bastions. The ramparts had a parapet loop-holed for musketry and this must have been a later addition. An inscription recording the bravery of one Ugrasen dates it to Shaka 1497 or 1575 A.D. The fort is in total ruins.

12. Not much is known about the fort. It passed through many hands, Arabs, Bahamanis, Nizamshahis, Mughals, Marathas and finally the E.I.C. in 1818 A.D. It appears that soon thereafter it was dismantled.

CLUSTER NUMBER 4. THE CHANDVAD CLUSTER.

It will be more appropriate to call it the Chandvad Group or the Chandvad Line as the forts are not clustered round Chandvad but are strung out along a line. A side range of the Sahyadri starts near the village Bhanwad, there being a short gap of 10 to 12 kilometres between the Sahyadri and this range at that point. The range runs almost due East for about 50 kilometres and has a few spurs jutting Northwards.

On the peaks of this range there are 12 forts, starting with Achala in the West and ending with Chandvad in the East. The other forts are : Ahiwant, Dhodap, Indrai, Jawlya, Kamchana, Kanhera, Koldher, Markandya, Rajdher and Rawlya. (See Figure 18)

A satisfactory military explanation for the location of these forts in almost a straight line is not easy to put forward. There are three routes in this area. The first from the Dang country to Surgana and on to Vani was adequately covered by Hatgad. The second, from Satana to Vani through the Saptashrungi gap was well covered by Ahiwant and by Chauler further North. The third, and the most important, the Malegaum-Nasik route passing in the gap between the forts of Chandvad and Indrai was also well covered. Where then, was the necessity of the other forts ? One can only surmise that the line provided defence in depth to the Mulher group in the North, the Trimbak group in the south, and the Ankai group in the East. However, there are no documents recording the military movements in this area to support the above view.

1. C. 10.
2. **Chandvad.** (See Photograph No. 6)
3. Chanderi, Chandor.
4. Nasik.
5. 20°17' Lat., 74°15' Long.
6. 49 deg., 80 kms, from Nasik.

7. H.F., Ht., 1370 mtrs., ASL.
8. M.F.
9. Chandvad Cluster.
10. Ancient.
11. Chandvad town itself is fortified by a wall, bastions and three gateways. Close to the town and the highway is the fort. It was reputed to be very strong and well fortified. On the lower hill is the temple of Chandadevi and from here the route to the top starts. There was only one path, steep and with a rock face which could be climbed only with the help of ropes. Towards the end there were a few steps and a door. This route was destroyed by the E.I.C. in 1818 A.D. The fort and the buildings are in ruins.
12. Chandvad has a long history, dating back at least to the Yadav dynasty. It passed to the Bahamanis and the Nizamshahi and then to the Mughals after the Nizamshahi rule ended. Captured by the Marathas for a short period it reverted to the Mughals. It came under permanent Maratha control after the death of Aurangzeb and remained with them till taken over by the E.I.C. From 1754 A.D. it was with the Holkars.

1. A. 2.
2. **Achala.**
3. ---
4. Nasik.
5. See Fig. 18.
6. As above.
7. H.F., Ht., 1230 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Chandvad Cluster.
10. NK but pre 1600 A.D.
11. There are two peaks, Taula and Achala and only the latter was fortified. There was a craggy wall surrounding the fort. The approach was from the base village of Pimpri Achala, passed to the East of the fort to the col between Achala and Ahiwant and then turned westwards to the top. The fort is in ruins.
12. Historical data is not available. The road from Surgana to Vani passes quite close to its South and the fort may have had some role in the control of this route.

1. A. 7.
2. **Ahiwant.**
3. Sarp or Serpant Fort.
4. Nasik.
5. See Fig. 18.
6. As above.
7. H.F., Ht., 1228 mtrs. ASL.
8. S.F.
9. Chandvad Cluster.
10. NK but pre 1600 A.D.
11. Ahiwant was built on a giant hill with many projections. There is a very large flat area at the top with ruins of many buildings. Traces of a wall can also be seen. The approach is from the base village of Achala or Ahiwantwadi. The path is steep and passes a scree. There are two routes but the one from the col between Achala and Ahiwant is the most used.
12. Historical data is not available except that it was captured by Shivaji in 1671 A.D. and it was mentioned in Ramchandra Pant Amatya's description of the extent of the Maratha kingdom as extending up to Saleri and Ahiwant.

1. D. 22.
2. **Dhodap.** (See Figure 19)
3. ---
4. Nasik
5. 20°20' Lat., 74°02' Long.
6. 285 deg., 22.5 kms. from Chandvad.
7. H.F., Ht., 1445 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Chandvad Cluster.
10. NK but pre 1600 A.D.
11. Dhodap was a difficult fort to reach. It was also well fortified with double gates and wall with bastions. There was a citadel whose remains can be seen. There were also caves and water tanks. The Devi mandir survives and attracts a large number of devotees. The most striking feature of Dhodap, which can be seen even from afar, is the wide gap that has been hewn out in south-western ridge. Legend has it that prisoners were thrown over it. The approach is from the base villages of Dhodambe and Sonar.

12. Some historical data is available. It was with Burhan Nizamshah in 1533 A.D., with Aliwardi Khan, a Mughal general, in 1635, and was captured by Shivaji during 1670-73. After a brief Mughal occupation it was re-captured by the Marthas and remained with them till 1818 A.D. It was at the base of Dhodap that Raghunathrao took shelter but was apprehended by Peshwa Madhavrao.

1. I. 2.
2. **Indrai.**
3. Indragad.
4. Nasik.
5. 20°22' Lat., 74°13' Long.
6. 334 deg. 4.2 kms from Chandvad.
7. H.F., Ht., 1377 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Chandvad Cluster.
10. NK
11. The fort was built on a hill on the west of the highway. There are caves, a well fortified entrance and a huge water tank at the top. The fort was dismantled by the E.I.C.
12. Historical data is not available. It is said that the capture of a neighbouring fort by the E.I.C. so frightened the garrison that they left the fort in the night without any attempt to resist.

1. J. 9.
2. **Jawlya.**
3. ---
4. Nasik.
5. See Fig. 18.
6. As above.
7. H.F., Ht., 1236 mtrs. ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Chandvad Cluster.
10. NK
11. The fort, a twin of fort Rawlya, was built on a high rock on the eastern side of the peak. It was protected by a wall and a gate. The approach is from the base village of Babapur from where the climb is through the pass between Rawlya and Markandya. On the plateau between the forts of Rawlya and Jawlya there is a small hamlet. The fort is in ruins.

12. Historical data is not available except that the twins are mentioned in connection with the Anglo Maratha wars.

1. K. 14.
2. **Kanchana.**
3. ---
4. Nasik.
5. 20°22' Lat., 74°07' Long.
6. 288 deg., 16 kms. from Chandvad.
7. H.F., Ht., 1134 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Chandvad Cluster.
10. NK
11. It was a small hill fort but with steep sides and difficult to get into. The base village was Puri. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical information is not available.

1. K. 17.
2. **Kanhergad.**
3. Kanhira.
4. Nasik.
5. See Fig. 18.
6. 386 deg., 26 kms. from Chandvad.
7. H.F., Ht., 1060 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Chandvad Cluster.
10. NK
11. Not much is known about its fortifications. The ascent from the base village Kanherwadi is steep and rocky. The fort is in ruins.
12. Historical data is not available except that during his retreat from Surat Shivaji had to fight a rear guard action near the fort to enable the loot he had taken at Surat to be safely taken back to Raigad. Its tactical importance is difficult to determine.

1. K. 47.
2. **Koldher.**
3. Kolther.

4. Nasik.
5. 20°23' Lat., 74°10' Long.
6. 305 deg., 12.2 kms. from Chandvad.
7. H.F., Ht., 978 mtrs. ASL
8. F.P.
9. Chandvad Cluster.
10. NK
11. It was a small fort the route being from the base villages of either Dhadode or Koldher. Not much is recorded about the physical features of the fort. The ascent was not very difficult and ruins of rock cut granaris and tanks can be seen.
12. Historical data is not available. The tactical importance of the fort, if any, is not clear.

1. M. 36.
2. **Markandya.** (See Figure 20. Photograph No. 7)
3. Mayurkhandi.
4. Nasik.
5. See Fig. 18.
6. As above.
7. H.F., Ht., 1336 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Chandvad Cluster.
10. Ancient.
11. The fort was situated east of Saptashrungi. The ascent was through a col between it and the former. Right at the top was the gate. The fort is in ruins. The remains of a water tank named Ramkund can be seen. This tank is still considered holy and an annual fair is held.
12. Historical data is meagre. It was once a main seat of the Rashtrakutas. During the medieval period most rulers used it as an arsenal.

1. R. 4.
2. **Rajdher.**
3. ---
4. Nasik.
5. 20°23' Lat., 74°12' Long.
6. 321 deg., 7 kms. from Chandvad.

7. H.F., Ht., 1091 mtrs. ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Chandvad Cluster.
10. NK but pre 1600 A.D.
11. The fort was built on a high hill and had natural protection in the form of scarps. The approach was from the base villages of Vadvare or Rajdher. The climb is very stiff and half way up there is a sheer rock face. The steps at this point were blown up by the E.I.C. and one needs a rope to climb to the top. The fort is in ruins and apparently there is no trace of any wall or bastion.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. R. 21.
2. **Rawlya.**
3. ---
4. Nasik.
5. As for Jawlya.
6. As for Jawlya.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Chandvad Cluster.
10. NK
11. The fort is a little higher than Jawlya but a little easier to climb. There are also a few steps towards the top. Traces of a gate and wall can be seen. The fort is in ruins. Much of the wanton destruction was caused by Capt. Mackintosh of the E.I.C. after its surrender.
12. Historical data is not available. If Rawlya and Jawlya are taken together, they present a fairly large fortified area and it is surprising that nothing is known about the part they played in any military operation.

CLUSTER NUMBER 5. THE ANKAI CLUSTER.

The Ankai Cluster has nine forts : Ankai, Borale, Dehra, Kankadri, Lasalgaum, Manikpunj, Nashratpur, Tankai and Vinchur. See Figure 21.

The cluster can be considered as the gateway to Upper Konkan from the Deccan plateau. Historically, the main axis of any foreign advance into upper Konkan was along the route Deogiri-Nasik and the cluster forms the first line of defence. Equally, the North-South axis, Malegaum-

Manmad-Kopergaum-Ahmadnagar, passes through this cluster. It should be noted that the cluster is more or less in the plains, the main Sahyadri range being about 80 kms to the west. The cluster lies between Girna in the North and the Godavari in the South and covers vital ground.

1. A. 25.
2. **Ankai.**
3. ---
4. Nasik.
5. 20°08' Lat., 74°29' Long.
6. 160 deg., 9 kms. from Manmad.
7. L.F./H.F., Ht., 274 mtrs., ASL
8. M.F.
9. Ankai Cluster.
10. NK but pre 1500 A.D.
11. The fort was built on a small hill almost entirely surrounded by plains. The sides of the Hill were scarped artificially wherever natural scarps did not exist. At one time it was defended by as many as seven lines of fortifications. Each line had a gate and there were steps at many places.
A small col gave access to the fort of Tankai. It was said that Ankai could be defended by just 20 men against a force of even a hundred men, armed with nothing but big boulders and stones.
12. Only a few historical events have come down to us in narratives. The fort came into prominence when it was captured by Shahjehan in 1635 A.D., and since then became an important military post of the Mughals.

1. B. 48.
2. **Borale.**
3. ---
4. Nasik.
5. 20°29' Lat., 74°45' Long.
6. 55 deg., 40 kms. from Manmad.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Ankai Cluster.
10. NK

11. Borale is not listed as a fort in the Gaz. or SS but is clearly shown as such in SI map, Sheet 46-P-15-A.1. and hence included here. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. D. 7.
2. **Dehra.**
3. Bhorgad, Rajdher.
4. Jalgaum.
5. 20°15' Lat., 74°50' Long.
6. 210 deg., 22 kms. from Chalisgaum.
7. L.F./H.
8. F.P.
9. Ankai Cluster.
10. NK
11. The fort was built on an isolated hill, naturally well protected. The approach was by a path cut in rocks and secured by a gate. There are very few traces of former fortifications.
12. Historical data is not available. It may have been used to provide cover to Malegaum and Ankai. Once it passed into Mughal hands, the location must have lost much of its value.

1. K. 19.
2. **Kankadri** (See Figure 15)
3. Kantra, Kandas.
4. Nasik.
5. 20°10' Lat., 74°15' Long.
6. 80 deg. 5 kms. from Ankai.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Ankai Cluster.
10. NK
11. The Gazetteer does not give any description, reference point or the name of the base village. Captain Briggs described it in 1822 A.D. as an easy fort. The fort is in ruins and only the remains of a gate can now be seen.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. M. 30.
2. **Manikpunj.** (See Figure 22)
3. ---
4. Nasik.
5. 20°13' Lat., 74°44' Long.
6. 90 deg. 30 kms. from Manmad.
7. H.F., Ht. 634 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Ankai Cluster.
10. NK
11. The fort was built on a low hill. It had two gates and was protected by a wall except on the side where the scarp was steep enough. A peculiar feature was a high, unfortified rock which occupied most of the place at the top on the side. The fort is in ruins and only the remnants of a tank and a temple can be seen.
12. Historical information is not available. Its military significance is difficult to determine.

1. L. 2.
2. **Lasalgaum.**
3. ---
4. 20°07' Lat., 74°14' Long.
5. 237 deg., 24 kms. from Manmad.
6. Ankai Cluster.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Ankai Cluster.
10. NK but pre 1600 A.D.
11. Lasalgaum was a small mud fort situated on the southern side of the village. Very few traces remain and the expanding township has engulfed it.
12. Historical data is not available. Its military significance is difficult to determine.

1. N. 12.
2. **Nashratpur.**
3. ---
4. Nasik

5. 20°19' Lat., 74°47' Long.
6. 57 deg., 11 kms. from Nandgaum RS
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Ankai Cluster.
10. NK
11. SS and the Gaz. do not show this fort. SI map does. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. T. 8
2. **Tankai.**
3. ---
4. Nasik.
5. See under Ankai.
6. As above
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Ankai Cluster.
10. NK
11. See under Ankai. Tankai, however, must be treated as a separate fort as it had fortifications of its own and could be defended on its own.
12. As for Ankai,

1. V. 17
2. **Vinchur.**
3. ---
4. Nasik.
5. 20°06' Lat., 84°15' Long.
6. 197 deg., 4.5 kms. from Lasalgaum
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Ankai Cluster.
10. NK but pre 1600 A.D.
11. Vinchur is not shown as a fort in SS or Gaz. but is so marked on the SI map. Physical description is not available.

12. Historical data is not available, but the famous Vinchurkar family of the Peshwa period originally came from here and the neighbouring Lasalgaum. It could not have played any military role and may even be considered as a fortified village.

CLUSTER NUMBER 6. THE TRIMBAK CLUSTER.

This cluster has 14 forts : Trimbak, Anjaneri, Bahula, Basgad, Bhupatgad, Bhorgad, Ghargad, Harshgad, Kanvai, Khatgad, Ramsejgad, Shegwa, Tringalwadi and Vaghera. See Figure 23.

From the Maratha point of view the Trimbak cluster provided immediate cover to upper Konkan and the routes leading southwards, both to the sea and to Mahuli and Thane. On the other hand, from the invader's point of view, the cluster, once captured, provided a firm advanced base for operations. The forts straddle the Sahyadris. All fourteen are hill forts.

1. T. 17.
2. **Trimbak.** (See Figure 24, Photograph No. 8)
3. Brahmagad (giri), Shrigad.
4. Nasik
5. 19°55' Lat., 73°31' Long.
6. 252 deg., 30 kms. from Nasik.
7. H.F., Ht., 1294 mtrs. ASL.
8. M.F.
9. M.F.
10. Trimbak Cluster.
11. The name Trimbak derives from the Sanskrit *tri*(three) and *ambakam*(eyes) or Mahadev with three eyes.

The fort was built on a high hill with natural scarps on almost all sides. Some of these were very high and nearly vertical and greatly added to the strength of the fort. In addition there were walls and bastions. These are mostly in ruins or completely destroyed. The mighty Godavari starts its life as a trickle running out of a cave known as Gangadwar. The approach is either by about 700 steps upto Gangadwar and a little beyond and then left to the main part of the fort, or up about 300 rock cut, steep steps cut out of a near verticle scarp and passing through rock cut gates. There are numerous ruins on the top and a number of people inhabit the upper part of the fort for one reason or the other.

12. The fort has a long history and is said to be very ancient. The first authentic recorded evidence is in the form of an inscription stating that the fort was with the Yadavas in 1271 A.D. It passed through several hands, Nizamshahi (1620), the Mughals (1636) and the Marathas (1670) till it was yielded to the E.I.C. by Bajirao in 1817. The strategic importance of Trimbak and its groups of forts cannot be overemphasised. Whoever held it could use it for defensive and offensive operations.

1. A. 23.
2. **Anjaneri.**
3. ---
4. Nasik.
5. 15°54' Lat., 73°33' Long.
6. 257 deg., 24 kms from Nasik.
7. H.F., Ht., 1309 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Trimbak Cluster.
10. NK
11. The fort was built on a flat topped hill with natural protection in the way of a scrap. Traces of a wall can be seen. The temple of Anjanidevi survives and a fair is held annually. The approach is from the village of Anjaneri (which also houses a museum) and passes along the cliff face and becomes increasingly difficult on its higher reaches, till it reaches the top where there are only a few ruins.
12. Historical data about the fort is not available. It must have been an outpost to Trimbak, over looking both the route to Nasik and the *khind* to Igatpuri.

1. B. 7.
2. **Bahula.**
3. ---
4. Nasik.
5. 19°52' Lat., 73°44' Long.
6. 262 deg., 8 kms from Devlali.
7. H.F., Ht, 956 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Trimbak Cluster.

10. NK
11. The fort can be made out from a distance due to its shape, a long flat top and steep sides. The path to the top was rugged and towards the end a sheer rock face had to be negotiated with the help of a ladder.
12. Historical data is not available. The fort and its surrounding area is now being used as an artillery range. The military importance of the fort is difficult to say except that it must have provide a strong defensive position east of Trimbak, from where most of the attacks took place.

1. B. 16.
2. **Basgad.**
3. ---
4. Thane.
5. 19°54' Lat., 73°26' Long.
6. 40 deg., 60 kms from Mokhada.
7. H.F., Ht., 1083 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Trimbak Cluster.
10. NK
11. Basagad is not included as a fort in Gaz. or SS, but is shown as such in SI map Sheet, 47-E-5 and hence included. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical date is not available. Beyond being an outpost it could not have amounted to much.

1. B. 38.
2. **Bhupatgad.**
3. Bhopatgad.
4. Thane.
5. 19°50' Lat., 73°20' Long.
6. 145 deg., 12.5 kms from Jawhar.
7. H.F., Ht., 489 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Trimbak Cluster.
10. NK

11. The fort was a small one, about 450 mtrs by 90 mtrs. The fortification consisted of a wall with bastion and a gate on the north-east side. The fort is now in total ruins.
12. Historical data is not available. It must have served as an outpost controlling the main Trimbak - Igatpur route.

Note: SS lists two forts, Bhupatgad and Bhopatgad, the first 25 miles North of Mahuli and the second 8 miles South-East of Jawar. On the SI map, both the locations as given above point to about the same area. I have visited Bhupatgad and I was not told, or did not hear, of two Bhupatgads at any time from any source.

1. B. 40.
2. **Bhorgad.**
3. ---
4. Nasik.
5. 20°09' Lat., 73°44' Long.
6. 2 kms North-West of Ramsej.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Trimbak Cluster.
10. NK
11. The fort was a satellite of Ramsej. It was lower and poorly fortified. Physical details could not be obtained as there is an Air Force Unit there and the area is restricted.
12. Historical details are not available. It was captured by the Mughals before they began their siege of Ramsej. Its military importance is linked with Ramsej.

1. G. 8.
2. **Ghargad.**
3. Dhargad.
4. Nasik.
5. 19°53' Lat., 73°38' Long.
6. 103 deg., 14 kms from Trimbak.
7. H.F., Ht., 1088 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Trimbak Cluster.
10. NK

11. The fort was small but very well protected. The approach is by a path which becomes increasingly difficult, passing underneath an overhanging scarp. On the top there was plenty of water, Some ruins can be seen.
12. Historical data is not available. Considering its strength it might have been an important outpost of Trimbak.

1. H. 5.
2. **Harshgad** (See Figure 26, Photograph No. 10)
3. Harishgad.
4. Nasik.
5. 19°54' Lat., 73°28' Long.
6. 255 deg., 6.5 kms. from Trimbak.
7. H.F., Ht., 1109 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Trimbak Cluster.
10. NK
11. The fort was very difficult to reach. Several paths met nearly half way up the hill. From here, after a short distance, is sheer rock face. A very steep, rock cut staircase, with verticle and high steps takes one to the top. At the end of this nearly 50 mtrs staircase is a gate and a gallery. From here another even more dificult steps lead one to the inner gate. Captain Briggs of the E.I.C. doing a survey described it as so strong that even five men could hold it against heavy odds.
12. Some historical data is availabe. It was with the Mughals in 1636 A.D. and with the Marathas in 1671. In spite of what Captain Briggs had to say about its strength, it meekly surrendered to the E.I.C. in 1818. The fort was, obviously, an outpost of great strength South of Trimbak.

1. K.23.
2. **Kanvai.**
3. ---
4. Nasik.
5. 19°46' Lat., 73°37' Long.
6. 40 deg., 11.25 kms. from Igatpuri.
7. H.F., Ht., 916 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Trimbak Cluster.

10. NK
11. The fort was small and not very difficult to reach. An easy slope led to a scarp where there were rock cut steps. These led to the top through a gate. The fort is in ruins.
12. Historical data is not available. It could have screened Mokhada in its West.

1. K. 41.
2. **Khatgad.**
3. ---
4. Nasik.
5. 20°08' Lat., 73°29' Long.
6. 205 deg., 36 kms. from Nasik.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Trimbak Cluster.
10. NK
11. The fort is not shown in SS or Gaz. However, it is clearly shown in SI map, Sheet 46-H-12 and hence included. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. R. 11.
2. **Ramsej.** (See Figure 26, Photograph No. 11)
3. Ramsejgad.
4. Nasik.
5. 20°07' Lat., 73°45' Long.
6. 338 deg., 13°75 kms. from Nasik.
7. H.F., Ht., 1080 mtrs., ASL.
8. S.F.
9. Trimbak Cluster.
10. NK but certainly pre-1600 A.D.
11. This fort was well defended, mainly by scarps. There was a wall all around it with at least two bastions. The fort is now in ruins and only very few remnants of an underground chamber, a magazine and a water tank can be seen. A well maintained temple stands on the hill side quite close to the top. The approach is from the base village Ashewadi.

12. Some historical data is available. It was an important fort guarding the northern approach to Nasik. The most notable event connected with its history was its heroic defense by the Marathas when Aurangzeb tried to capture it in 1682 A.D. After a brief Mughal occupation after the death of Sambhaji, it came back to the Marathas in 1710 A.D. and remained with them till it was lost to the E.I.C. in 1818 A.D.

1. S. 23.
2. **Shegwa.**
3. ---
4. Nasik.
5. 20°10' Lat., 75°21' Long.
6. 294 deg., 45 kms from Nasik.
7. H.F., Ht., 689 mtrs. , ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Trimbak Cluster.
10. Kings of Gujarat in 15th Century.
11. The fort was built on a hill which was not very steep. Two lines of fortifications can be made out. The fort is in ruins.
12. Historical data is not available. Its military importance is difficult to assess.

1. T. 18.
2. **Tringalwadi.**
3. ---
4. Nasik.
5. 19°43' Lat., 73°34' Long.
6. 320 deg., 2 kms from Igatpuri.
7. H.F. , Ht., 880 mtrs. , ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Trimbak Cluster.
10. NK but certainly pre 1600 A.D.
11. The fort was built on a hill which did not have very much natural protection. The approach is from the base village of Tringalwadi. The path is not very difficult and some 60 rock cut steps lead to a rock cut gate which is so low that one has to bend double to pass. The fort is now in ruins.

12. Not much is known about the fort. It was with the Nizamshahi and had to be surrendered to the Mughals by Shahji. From the military point of view, its location close to the Thal Pass gave it some value.

1. V. 1.
2. **Vaghera.**
3. ---
4. Nasik.
5. 20°02' Lat., 73°29' Long.
6. 280 deg., 20 kms. from Nasik.
7. H.F., Ht. , 1061 mtrs. , ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Trimbak Cluster.
10. NK but pre 1600 A.D.
11. The fort differs from others in this region in that the hill has a conical and wavy slopes and not horizontal ridges which is the normal feature. The ascent was very difficult as it was said to be through very thick grass. It still is. There were two gates protected by bastions. The entire fort is now in ruins.
12. Historical data is not available. Situated between Shegwa and Trimbak, it may have served as a link fort.

7. THE DAHANU CLUSTER.

The cluster contains eleven forts : Dahanu, Asher, Asava, Ballalgad, Chinchani, Dindu, Gambhirgad, Indragad, Sanjan, Tarapur and Umbergaum. See Figure 27.

It is basically a maritime cluster. The Portuguese built forts and fortified posts to further their trade. To protect these some forts inland were also needed. It should be remembered that till the arrival of the British, the only threat to the Portuguese was from land and not from the sea. The foreign powers thus tried to gain control over as many inland forts as possible.

The Dahanu cluster is the northern most cluster along the coast and its importance was not as great the other central or southern clusters. Nevertheless it provided an obstacle to any southward advance along the coast. In this part of the Konkan the strip of land between the sea and the Sahyadri is comparatively broad. There are no hills reaching upto the sea.

Thus, it is significant to note that there is only one fort in this cluster, Asheri which is in a true sense a hill fort.

1. D. 1.
2. **Dahanu.**
3. ---
4. Thane.
5. 19°58' Lat., 17°44' Long.
6. NN
7. C.F.
8. M.F.
9. Dahanu Cluster.
10. Portuguese about 1533 A.D.
11. The fort was built along the north bank of the Dahanu river. It was a strong fort with 9 mtrs high rampart, which was, at places, three mtrs wide. There were four bastions. Traces of a parapet with loop holes can be seen.
12. Historically, Dahanu is a very ancient city and well known from the Dandkaranya times (100 A.D.) as ascertained from the Nasik inscriptions. It is therefore more than likely that some kind of fortifications must have existed from ancient times, and the later fort may have been built on an earlier foundation. It remained with the Portuguese till captured by the Marathas in Chimnaji Appa's campaign of 1739 A.D.

1. A.29
2. **Asheri.**
3. ---
4. Thane.
5. 19°48' Lat., 72°54' Long.
6. 135 deg., 26.25 kms. from Dahanu.
7. C.F./H.
8. S.F.
9. Dahanu Cluster.
10. King Bhoj in the 12th century, renovated by Portuguese.
11. The fort was built on top of the massive Asheri hill which dominates the surrounding countryside. At one time the path to the top was so steep that ascent had to be made bare foot and with the help of ropes.

The path passed through a number of narrow passes or *khinds* and reached a cave beyond which was the main gate. There is a flight of rock cut steps leading to the inner gate. There is, today, no trace of any fortification but probably extensive fortifications were not necessary even in those times.

12. Asheri, without doubt, served as a Secondary Fort exercising control over inland areas and covering the coast. It is, therefore, surprising that not much is known about the historical events connected with the fort. It was captured by the Marathas in 1736 and remained with them till 1818 A.D. when it surrendered to the E.I.C. without a fight.

1. A. 28.
2. **Asava.**
3. Asavagad, Ashagad.
4. Thane.
5. 19°55' Lat., 72°49' Long.
6. 125 deg., 10 kms from Dahanu.
7. C.F./H
8. F.P.
9. Dahanu Cluster.
10. King Bimbarao in 14th century.
11. The fort was built on a small hillock with heavily wooded slopes. The top was small. about 150 mtrs. by 75 mtrs. There are traces of fortifications.
12. Historical data is not available. It must have played some tactical role as it covers the Dahanu-Jawhar route. It was with the Portuguese from about 1540 A.D. till captured by the Marathas in 1739. The fort, according to legend is the last resting place of King Bimbaraja.

1. B. 10.
2. **Ballalgad.**
3. ---
4. Thane.
5. 20°10' Lat., 72°55' Long.
6. 47 deg., 30 kms. from Dahanu.
7. L.F./H.
8. F.P.
9. Dahanu Cluster.

10. Bimbaraja in 12th century.
11. The fort is built on a very small hillock hardly 25 to 30 mtrs. long. Even so it had strong 4.5 mtrs. high walls. The approach was from the base village of Achal or Achhad.
12. Historical data is not available. It may have had some importance as it was located near the Dahanu-Umbargaum route.

1. C. 18.
2. **Chinchani.**
3. ---
4. Thane.
5. 19°50' Lat., 72°44' Long.
6. 210 deg., 38 kms. from Dahanu.
7. C.F.
8. F.P.
9. Dahanu Cluster.
10. NK but certainly pre 1600 A.D.
11. It was a very small fort near the village at the mouth of the Tarapur Creek. No trace of the fort remains.
12. Historical data is not available. It was one of the many small outposts which the Portuguese built as staging posts for their maritime operations.

1. D. 2.A.
2. **Dindu.**
3. ---
4. Thane.
5. 20°08' Lat., 72°46' Long.
6. 02 deg. (North), 16 kms. from Dahanu.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Dahanu Cluster.
10. Portuguese in early 16 the century.
11. It was a very small, square fort now in total ruins. It was situated on the present borders of Thane and Daman and its exact location and extent needs to be determined.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. G. 3.
2. **Gambhirdgad.**
3. ---
4. Thane.
5. 20°02' Lat., 73°02' Long.
6. 70 deg., 35 kms. from Dahanu.
7. L.F./H. Ht. 686 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Dahanu Cluster.
10. NK but pre-1600 A.D.
11. It is the easternmost fort of the cluster. The fort is in ruins and only one longish wall remains. The approach was from the base village of Vyahali.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. I. 1.
2. **Indragad.**
3. ---
4. Thane.
5. 20°14' Lat., 72°53' Long.
6. 28 deg., 30 kms. from Dahanu.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Dahanu Cluster.
10. Sultans of Gujarat in 15th century.
11. The fort was built on the South banks of the Kalu river, on the present border of Thane and Daman. It was a very small fort hardly 55 mtrs. by 36 mtrs, but still had a high wall, four bastions and two gates. The fort is in total ruins. The fort is mentioned in Campbell's Gazetteer of 1882 but not in the Gazetteer of India, Maharashtra State and it is, perhaps, an indication of how completely it must have lost its importance and structures.
12. Historical data is not available. It was one of the few Maratha forts which passed to the E.I.C. fairly early, in 1780 A.D.

1. S. 11.
2. **Sanjan.**
3. ---
4. Thane.

5. 20°10' Lat., 72°50' Long.
6. 27 deg., 22 kms. from Dahanu.
7. C.F.
8. F.P.
9. Dahanu Cluster.
10. Portuguese, pre 1600 A.D. ?
11. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. T.9.
2. **Tarapur.**
3. ---
4. Thane.
5. 19°52' Lat., 72°39' Long.
6. 350 deg., 18 kms. from Palghar.
7. C.F.
8. F.P.
9. Dahanu Cluster.
10. Portuguese around 1600 A.D.
11. There is a ruin of a massive bastion 6.6 mtrs. high having a place for a gun emplacement. No other description is available.
12. Historical data is not available. However, at one time it must have been strong and of some importance as Peshwa Raghunathrao took shelter here. It was surrendered to the E.I.C. by Raghunathrao in 1803 A.D.

1. U. 1.
2. **Umbargaum**
3. ---
4. Thane.
5. 20°08' Lat., 72°48' Long.
6. 22 deg., 20 kms. from Dahanu.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Dahanu Cluster.
10. NK
11. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

8. THE ALANG CLUSTER

The Alang Cluster has nine forts : Alang, Avandha, Balwantgad, Bhaskargad, Bitangad, Kulang, Madangad, Patta and Ratangad. See Figure 28.

This cluster is sandwiched between the Trimbak cluster in the North, the Shivneri cluster in the south and the Mahuli cluster in the west. Only in the east it is open to the Deccan with two forts, Ekdara and Songad further east and too far away to be included in this cluster. The cluster serves two purposes, that of linking the three clusters mentioned above and to act as an advance defence line for any attack from the east along the Sangamner - Igatpuri axis.

1. A. 14.
2. **Alang.** (See Figure 29)
3. ---
4. Ahmadnagar. Nashik
5. 19°34' Lat., 73°39' Long.
6. 144 deg., 13 kms. from Igatpuri.
7. H.F., Ht., 1479 mtrs., ASL.
8. M.F.
9. Alang Cluster.
10. NK but pre 1600 A.D.
11. Alang, Kulang and Madangad are located on the same hill feature, Alang in the South, Kulang in the North and Madangad in the Centre. Alang has great natural strength and had wall and bastioned gate. The path to the top traverses the fort slope three times at different levels. Remains of water cisterns placed in a semi-circle attract attention. The fort is now in ruins.
12. Historical data is not available. It came under Maratha occupation very late, in about 1760.

1. A. 34.
2. **Avandha.**
3. Aundha.
4. Nasik.
5. 19°46' Lat., 73°51' Long.
6. 198 deg., 15.5 kms. from Devlali.
7. H.F. , Ht., 1045 mtrs., ASL.

8. F.P.
9. Alang Cluster.
10. NK, but pre 1600 A.D.
11. The fort was built on a high hill on the present Nasik-Ahmadnagar border. It had very little built defensive features. The approach was difficult and the top could be reached only by a rugged path and some rock cut steps towards the end. Once these were blown up by the E.I.C. in 1818 A.D., it became almost inaccessible.
12. Historical data is not available except that along with Patta it passed through a number of hands and finally came under Maratha rule when captured by Morapant Pingle in 1661 A.D. It must have served as an important outpost.

1. B. 12.
2. **Balwantgad.**
3. ---
4. Thane.
5. 19°38' Lat., 73°28' Long.
6. Very close to Kasara RS.
7. H.F., Ht., 1289 mtrs., ASL.
8. S.P.
9. Alang Cluster.
10. NK
11. This is the westernmost fort of the cluster. It was a fairly large fort protected by a wall 3 to 4 mtrs. high and at places 2 mtrs.thick. The wall encircled the entire fort area. Traces of a gate and bastion are seen, otherwise the fort is in total ruins.
12. Not much is known about its history. The size of the fort, the extent of its fortifications, and its proximity to Thal Pass prompts its classification as a Secondary Fort.

1. B. 32.
2. **Bhaskargad.**
3. ---
4. Nasik.
5. 19°35' Lat., 17°34' Long.
6. 170 deg., 10 kms from Igatpuri.
7. H.F., Ht., 737 mtrs. , ASL.

8. F.P.
9. Alang Cluster.
10. NK but pre 1600 A.D.
11. The fort was built on a hill with an easy slope. The hill side was covered by thick bamboo jungle. The path led to the base of a scarp near the top where there were rock cut steps leading to gate and a wall. The fort is now in ruins.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. B. 45.
2. **Bitangad.**
3. ---
4. Ahmadnagar.
5. 19°38' Lat., 73°47' Long.
6. 105 deg., 25.5 kms. from Igatpuri.
7. H.F., Ht., 1985 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Alang Cluster.
10. NK but pre 1600 A.D.
11. Bitangad is not mentioned as a fort in SS or Gaz. but shown as such in SI map. Sheet 47-E-14 and hence included here. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. K. 54.
2. **Kulang.** (See Figure 29)
3. Chota Kulang.
4. Nasik.
5. 19°36' Lat., 73°27' Long.
6. 147 deg., 10 kms from Igatpuri.
7. H.F. , Ht., 1470 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Alang Cluster.
10. NK but pre 1600 A.D.
11. The fort was built upon a massive hill feature protected by walls where required. The approach was from the base village Kulangwadi and ended in steps near the top. These steps were blown up by the E.I.C. The fort is in ruins.

12. Historical data is not available. It offers a magnificent view and overlooks the country for a great distance. Its value as an observation post must have been considerable.

1. M. 3.
2. **Madangad.**(See Figure 29)
3. ---
4. Nasik.
5. 19°36' Lat., 73°38' Long.
6. 143 deg., 10 kms from Igatpuri.
7. H.F. , Ht., 1460 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Alang Cluster.
10. NK but pre 1600 A.D.
11. Madangad can be immediately made out due to its high, square massif with a large hole on its western side. There were very few artificial fortifications. The steps leading to the top were blown up by the E.I.C. and the fort is now almost inaccessible.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. P. 18.
2. **Patta.**
3. Vishramgad.
4. Ahmadnagar.
5. 19°41' Lat., 73°51' Long.
6. 88 deg., 27.5 kms. from Igatpuri.
7. H.F. , Ht., 1391 mtrs., ASL.
8. S.F.
9. Alang Cluster.
10. NK but pre 1600 A.D.
11. The fort was built on a more or less isolated hill and a few fortifications the remains of which can be seen. There are many caves and ruins of water tanks. The temple has been renovated. On the western side there is a huge wall with two doors which is said to have been used as an *ambarkhana*.
12. Not much of its history is known. Shivaji named it Vishramgad presumably because he rested here for some time after it was captured from the Mughals in 1671. Whether with the Marathas or with the

Mughals, Patta with its size, plenty of water, buildings and easy control over the surrounding plains must have played an important role and has hence been classified as a Secondary Fort.

1. R. 17.
2. **Ratangad.**
3. ---
4. Ahmadnagar.
5. 19°29' Lat., 73°42' Long.
6. 84 deg., 39 kms. from Shahapur.
7. H.F., Ht., 1297 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Alang Cluster.
10. NK but pre 1600 A.D.
11. The fort was built on the edge of the ghats and as the name suggests is a jewel of a fort, with natural and built up defences, numerous water cisterns and caves. It commands a fine view. The approach is by a path from the base village of Ratanwadi, which itself can be reached now by a launch crossing an arm of the Bhandardara lake.
12. Historical data is not available.

9. THE MAHULI CLUSTER.

The cluster has eight forts: Mahuli, Bhandargad, Gorakhgad, Gumtara, Kalyan, Naladurg, Palasgad and Sidhagad. See Figure 30.

Mahuli Cluster links Trimbak Cluster with that of Vasai and is in the heart of Upper Konkan. It will always be associated with Shahaji whose attempt to sustain the Nizamshahi dynasty failed and who had to surrender to the Mughals while at Mahuli.

The forts of this cluster, except Mahuli, do not seem to have exerted any influence either as defensive anchor points or as forward bases for any offensive operations.

1. M. 16.
2. **Mahuli.**
3. ---
4. Thane.

5. 19°28' Lat., 73°15' Long.
6. 280 deg., 8.75 kms. from Shahapur.
7. H.F. , Ht., 849 mtrs., ASL.
8. M.F.
9. Mahuli Cluster.
10. Shilaharas ?, Gujarat Kings ? certainly pre 1400 A.D.
11. The fort was built on a spur or short range with three distinct peaks, each fortified. Mahuli was in the centre. The fortifications consisted of a wall, bastions and gate. It is massive and stands at the end of the path which ascends from the base village of Machi. The natural strength is derived from scarps, ravines and the clefts between the three peaks.
12. Mahuli has an interesting history. Captured by Malik Ahmad, the first Nizamshahi Sultan, it passed through many hands. Shahaji had it in his possession and the young Shivaji spent part of his childhood there. Shahaji had to surrender the fort to the Mughals in 1635. It was captured by Shivaji in 1661, but he too had to surrender it to Mirza Raja Jai Singh by the Treaty of Purandar in 1665. Recaptured by Moropant Pingle in 1670 it remained with the Marathas till the end. From its strength, size and location, there is no doubt that Mahuli must have had a role as a main fort and its control was essential for any advance on the Nasik-Kalyan or Junnar-Kalyan axis.

1. B.29
2. **Bhandargad.**
3. ---
4. Thane.
5. 19°28' Lat., 73°15' Long.
6. South, very close to Mahuli.
7. H.F., Ht., 852 mtrs., ASL
8. F.P.
9. Mahuli Cluster.
10. NK but subsequent to Mahuli.
11. The fort lies South of Mahuli and is more difficult to climb, but less fortified than Mahuli. It is now in ruins.
12. The fort was a satellite to Mahuli and its history is linked with that of Mahuli.

1. G. 11.
2. **Gorakhgad.**
3. ---
4. Thane.
5. 19°12' Lat., 73°13' Long.
6. 110 deg., 17.5 kms. from Murbad.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Mahuli Cluster.
10. NK
11. The fort is built on a sheer rock, about 120 mtrs. high It had two levels. From a huge cave at the base a steep path led to a gate. Beyond were rock cut steps and a tunnel like passage leading to a second gate. Remains of water cisterns and granary are seen but otherwise the fort is in ruins.
12. Historical data is not available. It may have had some tactical importance as it commanded the Ahup-Dehri Pass.

1. G. 14.
2. **Gumtara.**
3. ---
4. Thane.
5. 19°24' Lat., 73°03' Long.
6. 352 deg., 15.5 kms. from Bhiwandi.
7. H.F., Ht., 594 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Mahuli Cluster.
10. NK but pre 1600 A.D.
11. The fort was built on a hill and had some natural protection and this was agumented by a wall. The approach was from the base village Dugad. The fort seems to have been marked as Ghotara Dongar in SI map Sheet 47-E.
12. Historical data is not available. It might have been used to guard the western approaches to Mahuli.

1. K. 8.
2. **Kalyan.**
3. Durgadi.

4. Thane.
5. 19°14' lat., 73°06' Long.
6. NN
7. L.F.
8. S.F.
9. Mahuli Cluster.
10. Mughal General Mohatwar Khan during 1628-1658 A.D.
11. The fort of Kalyan started as a fortification around the town during the reign of Shahjehan. The fortifications were strengthened and extended by Aurangzeb. It consisted of an unbroken wall with 11 bastions and three gates. There was another small fort outside the wall and known locally as Durgadi. Together they constitute the fort of Kalyan.
12. Kalyan though strictly speaking a fortified town is treated as a fort because it served for a long time as basically a military post and played a part in all military operations in the region. Its possession was necessary to effectively control Upper Konkan and Thane area.

1. N. 3.
2. **Naladurg.**
3. Miragad.
4. Thane.
5. 19°13' Lat., 73°29' Long.
6. 150 deg., 10 kms. from Murbad.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Mahuli Cluster.
10. NK
11. There is only a three line reference in the Gaz. and physical description has not been given. The base village of Narivli could be located on SI map, Sheet 47-E.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. P. 4.
2. **Palasgad.**
3. ---
4. Thane.
5. 19°28' Lat., 73°15' Long.

6. Very close North of Mahuli.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Mahuli Cluster.
10. NK
11. The fort was built on a peak very close to Mahuli and was a satellite of Mahuli. The fort is in ruins.
12. Separate historical data is not available. It has been taken as a separate fort because it had its own fortifications and could be held and defended independently of Mahuli.

1. S. 32.
2. **Sidhagad.**
3. ---
4. Thane.
5. 19°11' Lat., 73°30' Long.
6. 162 deg., 16 kms. from Murbad.
7. H.F. , Ht., 982 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Mahuli Cluster.
10. NK
11. The fort was built at two levels, the first not so well fortified as the second. The top was small, hardly 75 mtrs long and about 20 to 25 mtrs. wide. There are two villages at the base, Dongarnari and Borwadi and from here the path passes to the top meeting Sidhawadi half way up. The path from here is very difficult. The fort is in total ruins.
12. The history of the fort is not available. It is said that a local bandit, Bhivaji Naik took shelter here after abducting a washer woman from a village close by.

CLUSTER NUMBER 10. THE MAHIM CLUSTER

The Mahim Cluster contains seven forts : Mahim, Bhavangad, Kaladurg, Kohaj, Manor, Shirgaum, and Tendulwadi. It also has 10 very small outposts hardly worthy of being called forts but they have been listed as they have been referred to as forts in SS and other sources. See Figure 31.

The Mahim Cluster is sandwiched between the Dahanu cluster in the north and the Vasai Cluster in the south. It is purely a maritime cluster, all

except one, being coastal forts. The Portuguese held sway over the area till the arrival of the British but even so they retained most of the forts. The Marathas captured all of them in the campaign of 1739.

1. M. 8.
2. **Mahim.**
3. ---
4. Thane.
5. 19°38' Lat., 72°44' Long.
6. 220 deg., 7.5 kms. from Palghar.
7. C.F.
8. M.F.
9. Mahim Cluster.
10. Naik Chief Bimbadev in 13th century. Extensive renovation by Portuguese in 16th century.
11. The name of Mahim is linked with that of Kelve and the fort is often referred to as Kelve Mahim although these are two distinct forts. This may also be to distinguish it from Mahim located on the Bombay Island. The fort was fairly large with strong fortifications and with the sea protecting it on three sides. The ramparts were 8.5 mtrs. high and there was a well protected gate facing east.
12. Historically the fort dates back to 13th century. In 1350 A.D. it was with petty Muslim chieftains and with the King of Gujarat from about 1400 A.D. In 1532 the Portuguese captured it, did extensive renovations and established it as an important post north of Vasai. It was captured by the Marathas in 1739 and remained with them till captured by the E.I.C. in 1818 A.D.

1. B. 33.
2. **Bhavangad.**
3. ---
4. Thane.
5. 19°33' Lat., 72°45' Long.
6. 6 kms South of Mahim.
7. C.F.
8. F.P.
9. Thane.
9. Mahim Cluster.

10. NK
11. It was a very small fort, about 57×21 mtrs., but with a strong wall with two towers. The fort is in ruins and the area within is used for growing fruit trees.
12. Historical information is meagre. Chimnaji Appa could take it only after a stiff fight. Ragunathrao took shelter here when he fled Poona. It passed to E.I.C. in 1803 A.D. after the Treaty of Vasai.

1. K. 5.
2. **Kaldurg.**
3. ---
4. Thane.
5. $19^{\circ}42'$ Lat., $72^{\circ}47'$ Long.
6. 105 deg., 5 kms. from Palghar RS.
7. C.F./H. Ht., 471 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Mahim Cluster.
10. Portuguese early 16th century.
11. The physical description is not available. It is not shown on SI map, Sheet 47 A or 47-A-14. It has been given the above location based on the noting in SS.
12. Historical data is not available. Proximity to Chahad Pass may have given it some importance.

1. K. 46.
2. **Kohaj.**
3. Komj, Konagad.
4. Thane.
5. $19^{\circ}38'$ Lat., $72^{\circ}59'$ Long.
6. 95 deg., 22.5 kms. from Palghar.
7. C.F.
8. F.P.
9. Mahim Cluster.
10. Marathas in 1692 A.D. ? (tradition)
11. The fort was built on a spur and could be reached only through a ravine between it and an adjoining spur. About 60 mtrs. from the base there was a wall and from here a steep climb, with a few steps, led to

the upper fort. It was a fairly large fort, about 365×36 mtrs. The fort is in ruins.

12. Historical data is not available. As it stood on the Manor-Vada road, it may have had some tactical value.

1. M. 32.
2. **Manor.**
3. ---
4. Thane.
5. $19^{\circ}48'$ Lat., $72^{\circ}39'$ Long.
6. 82 deg., 12.5 kms. from Palghar.
7. C.F.
8. F.P.
9. Mahim Cluster.
10. Portuguese in early 16th century.
11. The fort was built on the top of a hill which rises from Manor village. There is no indication of its original shape and fortifications.
12. Historically it appears that the Portuguese used it as a stores depot and there is a record to this effect dating it to 1556 A.D.

1. S. 24.
2. **Shirgaum.**
3. ---
4. Thane.
5. $19^{\circ}44'$ Lat., $72^{\circ}44'$ Long.
6. 270 deg., 7 kms. from Palghar RS.
7. C.F.
8. F.P.
9. Mahim Cluster.
10. Portuguese, 16th century.
11. It was a very small fort, about 60×42 mtrs. It was surrounded by a wall and had three bastions and a tower. The fort is in total ruins.
12. Historical data is not available, except that along with other forts in the area, it was captured by the Marathas in the 1739 campaign.

1. T. 7.
2. **Tandulwadi.**
3. ---
4. Thane.
5. 19°37' Lat., 72°50' Long.
6. 20 deg., 4 kms. from Saphale RS
7. C.F.
8. F.P.
9. Mahim Cluster.
10. Portuguese in 16th century.
11. There is very little to show that a fort existed. It is said that it was dismantled by the E.I.C. sometimes in 1818-1819 A.D.
12. Historical data is not available.

Mahim Group of Coastal Forts.

Between Mahim in the north and Dativre in the south, there are 11 forts. All are very small and almost nothing remains of them today. Either a lone dilapidated bastion or a square enclosure bear testimony of their existence. As already explained above, they can hardly be called forts. The names are :

Serial	Name	Alphabetic No.
1.	Phutka Buruz.	P.26.
2.	Madhla Buruz.	M.6.
3.	Alibag.	A.16.
4.	Pan Buruz.	P.7.
5.	Danda.	D.2.
6.	Kittal.	K.45.
7.	Tamkicha Buruz.	T.2.
8.	Yadwan.	Y.2.
9.	Khatale.	K.44.
10.	Chatale.	C.11.

In addition two small forts have been included in the next cluster. There is no historical records about them and they could not have been anything more than small outposts or temporary shelters. The location of the forts is shown in Fig. 32.

CLUSTER NUMBER 11. THE VASAI CLUSTER.

The cluster has 17 forts : Vasai, Agashi, Arnala, Dativre, Dharavi, Ghodbunder, Jivdhan, Kamandurg, Kanherigad, Kelve, Parsik, Takmak, Thane, Tungar, Usrani, Vazirgad and Virthan. See Figure 33.

The Vasai Cluster was also primarily a coastal cluster. The inland forts were to protect the ports and trading centres on the coast. It was thus an important cluster for the maritime powers, first the Portuguese and later the E.I.C. The Portuguese were ousted by the Marathas in 1739 and the Maratha Naval Power tried to utilise these forts but without much success. For the E.I.C. it was vital ground for the defence of Bombay and it tried to capture as many of these forts as possible.

1. V. 8.
2. **Vasai.** (See Figure 34)
3. Bassein, Bajipur.
4. Thane.
5. 19°20' Lat., 72°51' Long.
6. 308 deg., 24 kms. from Thane.
7. C.F.
8. M.F.
9. Vasai Cluster.
10. Bahadurshah of Gujarat in early 16th century. Extensively renovated and added to by the Portuguese.
11. The fort built originally by Bahadurshah was not very strong or large. The portuguese enlarged it and renovated it extensively, the work taking many years to complete. In its final shape it was an exceedingly strong fort with high ramparts and bastions. These are in tolerable shape while ruins of old buildings give some idea of its former glory.
12. Historically Vasai came into prominence after the decline of Sopara whose history dates back to 1500 B.C. When Sopara could no longer serve as a good port, primarily due to the silting of the creek, Vasai and other naval stations gained in importance. In 1533 A.D. Bahadurshah of Gujarat, in his conflict with Humayun, sought Portuguese help. The latter, thus gaining an entry into the native political affairs, first partly destroyed the fort but later realising its value and locations, took possession of the fort and refused to give it back to Bahadurshah.

Shivaji's attempt to capture Vasai in 1676 failed. It fell to the Marathas in 1739 after a heroic fight. It remained with them till 1818, except for

brief periods in 1767 and 1802 A.D. The military value of the fort can be gauged from the fact that it was the northern capital of the Portuguese and every power coveted it.

2. **Agashi.**
3. ---
4. Thane.
5. 19°27' Lat., 72°45' Long.
6. 341 deg., 15 kms. from Vasai.
7. C.F.
8. F.P.
9. Vasai Cluster.
10. Raja Bimba in 12th century.
11. It was a small fort and a frequent resting place of King Mahabimba. It is in total ruins. In fact the Gaz. does not mention it.
12. Historical data is not available. It was definitely with the Portuguese in 1530 and with the Marathas in 1739 A.D.

1. A. 27
2. **Arnala.** (See Photograph No. 12)
3. ---
4. Thane.
5. 19°28' Lat., 72°44' Long.
6. 310 deg., 40 kms. from Thane.
7. I.F.
8. S.F.
9. Vasai Cluster.
10. Sultan Muhammed Bagde in 1516 A.D.
11. The Arnala Island, called the Cow's Island by the E.I.C., lies at the mouth of the Vaitarna river. It was built on the north-west corner of the island. The ramparts were 8 to 9 mtrs. high and there were many buildings and water tanks and a well inside the fort. The ramparts, the well and a temple are in fair shape but the buildings are in ruins or have disappeared.
12. Arnala was used by the Portuguese as a major naval depot till it fell to the Marathas in 1739. Peshwa Bajirao the First carried out major repairs. It repulsed an attack by the English in 1781 but fell to the E.I.C. in 1818 A.D.

1. D. 5.
2. **Dativre.**
3. ---
4. Thane.
5. 19°31' Lat., 72°46' Long.
6. 330 deg., 6.25 kms. from Virar RS
7. C.F.
8. F.P.
9. Vasai Cluster.
10. Portuguese in 16th century.
11. The fort is in such a sorry state that almost nothing can be made out of its former fortifications. There is a trace of a bastion and there is a disused lighthouse.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. D. 19.
2. **Dharavi.**
3. Kala Killa.
4. Thane.
5. 19°14' Lat., 72°50' Long.
6. 305 deg., 16 kms. from Thane.
7. C.F.
8. F.P.
9. Vasai Cluster.
10. Portuguese in 16th century.
11. Dharavi was originally an island and the fort was built on it. There is no trace of it now and the island has long since become connected to Bombay.
12. Historical data is not available. It was famous for its quarry and it supplied material for the construction of many forts and buildings as far away as Goa.

1. G. 9.
2. **Ghodbandar.** (See Photograph No. 13)
3. ---
4. Thane.
5. 19°16' Lat., 72°53' Long.

6. 120 Deg., 10 kms. from Vasai.
7. C.F./H.
8. F.P.
9. Vasai Cluster.
10. NK
11. The fort was built on the southern bank of the Vaitarna creek. The palace of the Nawab of Ghodbandar was also built nearby and is now being used by the M.T.D.C as a holiday resort. The fort had extensive walls and an outer and inner courtyards which were separated by arched walls and gates. The fort is fast going into ruins.
12. Historical data is not available. It appears that a Maratha attempt to capture it in 1738 was unsuccessful. It no doubt controlled inland maritime trade.

1. J. 11.
2. **Jivdhan.**
3. ---
4. Thane.
5. 19°26' Lat., 72°50' Long.
6. 328 deg., 30 kms. from Thane. East of Virar RS.
7. H.F., Ht. 337 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Vasai Cluster.
10. Ancient (tradition) most probably Portuguese.
11. The fort was built on a small hill bearing the same name. There are ruins of water cistern and an underground room but nothing else of note. Today a road winds itself to the top of the hill from where there is good view.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. K. 11.
2. **Kamandurg.**
3. ---
4. Thane.
5. 19°22' Lat., 72°59' Long.
6. 75 deg., 17 kms. from Vasai.
7. H.F., Ht., 654 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.

9. Vasai Cluster.
10. Portuguese in ?
11. Built on a conical hill very little is left of its fortifications to give any idea of its former shape.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. K. 18.
2. **Kanheri.**
3. Kanherigad.
4. Thane.
5. 19°13' Lat., 72°55' Long.
6. Above Kanheri Caves.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Vasai Cluster.
10. Ancient.
11. The fort is not mentioned in the Gaz. or SS but is so marked in SI Map, Sheet 47-A-16. It must have been built on a slab like structure that one sees today just above the caves. There is no trace of it now.
12. The history of the caves is well known but that of the fort is not available. Some hold the view that there was no fort as, otherwise, it was bound to be mentioned in the numerous descriptions of the caves.

1. K. 33.
2. **Kelve.**
3. Often Grouped with Mahim.
4. Thane.
5. 19°35' Lat., 72°45' Long.
6. 198 deg., 11.25 kms. from Palghar RS.
7. C.F.
8. F.P.
9. Vasai Cluster.
10. Portuguese ?
11. Kelve was a much smaller fort than Mahim. A solitary bastion is all that remains.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. P. 14.
2. **Parsik.**
3. ---
4. Thane.
5. 19°14' Lat., 73°00' Long.
6. 262 deg., 12.5 kms. from Kalyan.
7. C.F./H.
8. F.P.
9. Vasai Cluster.
10. NK
11. The fort was built on the mouth of the Kalyan creek on a high rock close to the present Thane-Dive subarban line. It had strong fortifications, with a massive gate and a staircase leading down to the water. By 1881 A.D. when a survey was done there was no trace of the fort.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. T. 1.
2. **Takmak.**
3. ---
4. Thane.
5. 19°34' Lat., 72°56' Long.
6. 128 deg., 23.75 kms. from Palghar RS.
7. H.F., Ht., 611 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Vasai Cluster.
10. King Bimbadev in 12th century.
11. The fort was built on a hill and was not very large. It was protected by wall only at two places. All that remains are two gates in a totally broken condition.
12. Historical data is not available. It was supposed to have been used as a prison by the Gujarat kings. It was with the Portuguese for almost two hundred years before it passed to the Marathas in 1739 and to the E.I.C. in 1818 A.D.

1. T. 12.
2. **Thane.**
3. Hirakot.

4. Thane.
5. 19°11' Lat., 72°58' Long.
6. NN
7. L.F.
8. S.F.
9. Vasai Cluster.
10. Portuguese, completed by Marathas, around 1737.
11. The fort was quite large, with strong walls and bastions at regular intervals. The town itself was gradually fortified and the importance of this inner fort diminished. It is now used as a jail.
12. Historically, Thane was not a very important trading centre. There is a record of an Arab raid on Thane in 636 A.D. but nothing is known thereafter till the 16th century. It assumed some importance under the Portuguese. It was captured by Captain Goddard of the E.I.C. in 1774 A.D. and remained with the E.I.C.

1. T. 20.
2. **Tungar.**
3. ---
4. Thane.
5. 19°55' Lat., 72°47' Long.
6. 46 deg., 18 kms. from Vasai.
7. C.F./H
8. F.P.
9. Vasai Cluster.
10. NK
11. The fort was built on a hill which is about 925 mtrs high. Its northern and eastern sides were very steep. The whole area was very thickly forested. The temple of Tungareshwar lies about 5 kms. from the base of the fort. Many would call Tungar a fortified peak and not a full fledged fort.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. U. 5.
2. **Usrani.**
3. ---
4. Thane.
5. See Fig. 33.

6. See Fig. 33.
7. C.F.
8. F.P.
9. Vasai Cluster.
10. NK
11. The fort of Usrani existed during the Portuguese and Maratha period as there are fleeting references to it. But now there is no trace of the fort.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. V. 11.
2. **Vazirgad.**
3. ---
4. Thane.
5. 19°22' Lat., 72°47' Long.
6. 270 deg., 4 kms. from Virar RS.
7. C.F.
8. F.P.
9. Vasai Cluster.
10. NK
11. I was shown a very small hillock where stood a broken wall about 8 mtrs long and a broken down gate. This is all that remains of the fort.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. V. 18.
2. **Virthan.**
3. ---
4. Thane.
5. See Fig. 33.
6. See Fig. 33.
7. C.F.
8. F.P.
9. Vasai Cluster.
10. NK
11. Virthan was a very small outpost. There is no trace of the fort now.
12. Historical data is not available.

CLUSTER NUMBER 12. THE SHIVANERI CLUSTER

The cluster contains eleven forts : Shivaneri, Bahiravgad, Chavand, Hadsar, Harishchadragad, Jivdhan, Junnar, Kunjalgad, Narayangad, Pabar and Pemgiri. See Fig. 35.

Strategically an important cluster, it lay across the Sahyadri and the Maval. It covered the south-eastern approaches to Mahuli and the north-eastern approaches to Lohagad. It was in the path of any advance on the Ahmadnagar — Kalyan axis. The route from Sangamner to Poona passed through it and, most important of all, it controlled the age old Nana Ghat Pass.

The Mughals always occupied and garrisoned the forts in this cluster well. Shivaji, although looting Junnar twice, failed to take Shivaneri.

1. S. 28.
2. **Shivaneri.** (See Fig. 36, Photograph No. 14)
3. ---
4. Pune.
5. 19°12' Lat., 73°51' Long.
6. 240 deg., 2 kms. from Junnar.
7. H.F., Ht., 1024 mtrs. ASL.
8. M.F.
9. Shivaneri Cluster.
10. Dates back to the 3rd century A.D. Renovated by successive powers.
11. The fort was built on a more or less detached hill. The approach to the top was through a series of seven gates protected by wall and bastions at a few places. The ramparts were only at few places as the fort had natural protection in the shape of scarps. Another path was on the eastern side and climbed up the hill. It had a few steps. The fortifications are now in near ruins. The house where Shivaji was born has been restored and a temple has also been built where Shiv-Jayanti is celebrated every year. The fort has been described in detail by many authors.
12. The fort and the hill on which it is built has a long history. It was the abode of Buddhist monks and their caves can still be seen. It passed through many hands, starting from the Shilahars and ending with the Marathas. Each power added to or repaired or renovated the fort in some measure. It was given in jagir to Maloji Bhonsale, and passed down to Shahji, but had to be surrendered to the Mughals. Militarily it was the hub around which the other forts in the area functioned.

1. B. 5.
2. **Bahiravgad.**
3. Bhai Ramgad, Bairamgad, Saramja.
4. Thane.
5. 19°20' Lat., 73°43' Long.
6. 76 deg., 32 kms. from Murbad.
7. H.F., Ht., 1079 mtrs. ASL.
8. S.F.
9. Shivaneri Cluster.
10. Ancient ?
11. The fort was built in the Nana Ghat region, on the western side of the Pass. It was one of the most difficult forts to get into. A steep path, rock strewn, and with some 15 rock cut steps led to a platform. A rope ladder was then used to get to the second, almost verticle, flight of steps. The steps led to a trap door which opened to the top. The path was blown up by Captain Dickinson of the E.I.C. after 1818 A.D.
12. Not much is known about the history of the fort. Its location, close to the Nana Ghat and Malsej Ghat must have given it some tactical value.

1. C. 15.
2. **Chavand.** (See Photograph No. 15)
3. Jund, Prassanagad.
4. Pune.
5. 19°15' Lat., 7°45' Long.
6. 273 deg., 16 kms. from Junnar.
7. H.F., Ht., 1068 mtrs., ASL
8. F.P.
9. Shivaneri Cluster.
10. Malik Ambar, pre 1457 A.D.
11. The fort was built between Junnar and Nana Ghat, on the eastern side of the pass. Its chief strength lay in its natural defences. Almost nothing now remains as the fort was dismatled by the E.I.C. The approach was from the base village of Chavandwadi. Half way up the hill is the temple of Chavandabai.
12. There was definite evidence that the fort was in possession of Malik Ambar and indications are that he built it, or built extensively on an earlier structure. Shahji used it during his fight to prop up the Nizamshahi dynasty, but had to give it up. Later it was sometimes used as a state prison.

1. H. 1.
2. **Hadsar.** (See Photograph No. 16)
3. Parvatgad.
4. Pune.
5. 19.17' Lat., 73.47' Long.
6. 305 deg., 12 kms. from Junnar.
7. H.F., Ht., 1125 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Shivaneri Cluster.
10. Pre 1500 A.D. ?
11. The fort was built on a hill which has two conical tops. These were connected by a wall-cum-ridge. The approach was from the base village Godre and was not too difficult. The fort is in ruins. Remains of a temple, a few water cisterns and an underground chamber can be seen. The fort overlooks Kukdi river and offers a good panorama.
12. Historical data is not available except that it was one of the forts surrendered by Shahaji to the Mughals in 1637 A.D.

1. H. 4.
2. **Harishchandragad.**
3. ---
4. Ahmadnagar.
5. 19°23' Lat., 73°46' Long.
6. 340 deg., 25 kms. from Junnar.
7. H.F., Ht., 1424 mtrs., ASL.
8. S.F.
9. Shivaneri Cluster.
10. Ancient.
11. The fort was built on a high and vast hill feature situated at the junction of the present Pune, Ahmadnagar and Thane districts. It was a large fort, about 4.8 kms. in circumference. Its main fortifications were a little below the top. The main feature of the fort is a long chain of caves, a beautiful temple and a handsome rock cut room. A sheer drop of about 400 mtrs. of a semi-circular rock face is known as the Konkan Kada. The fort is in ruins.
12. The history of the fort is not available to any significant extent. It was manned during different dynasties. A path across it, the Malshej Ghat was not at that time as important as Nana Ghat. Today the former is a

motorable road, while the latter remains fit for men on foot and bullocks only.

1. J. 10.
2. **Jivdhan.**
3. ---
4. Pune.
5. 19°15' Lat., 73°37' Long
6. 290 deg., 25 kms. from Junnar.
7. H.F., Ht., 1145 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Shivaneri Cluster.
10. NK but pre 1600 A.D.
11. The fort was formidable. It had both artificial and natural defences. The approach was steep and long. A flight of steps, partly built and partly rock cut led to a gate and then through a tunnel like passage to the inner gate. The fortification and steps were blown up by the E.I.C. A sheer 100 mtrs wall face is awe inspiring.
12. The fort was under Nizamshahi control for a long time. It passed through Mughal and Maratha hands before falling to the E.I.C.

1. J. 13.
2. **Junnar.**
3. ---
4. Pune.
5. 19°11' Lat., 73°51' Long.
6. North, 75 kms, from Poona.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Shivaneri Cluster.
10. Ancient.
11. The fort was built close to the town and was fairly large. Its walls and bastions are now in ruins. The inner building are dilapidated and some of the original ones no longer exist. In those of the late British period, some offices are located.
12. Junnar was an important centre of trade and the fort must have been meant for its protection. It met the logistics needs of the group of forts in the area.

1. K. 56.
2. **Kunjalgad.**
3. ---
4. Ahmadnagar.
5. 19°22' Lat., 73°57' Long.
6. 20 deg., 20 kms. from Junnar.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Shivaneri Cluster.
10. NK
11. The fort is mentioned in SS but not in the Gaz. Nor is it distinctly shown on SI maps. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. N. 9.
2. **Narayangad.** (See Photograph No. 17)
3. ---
4. Pune.
5. 19°07' Lat., 74°02' Long.
6. 90 deg., 6 kms. from Narayangaum.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Shivaneri Cluster.
10. Peshwa Balaji Vishwanath in ?
11. The fort was built on an isolated hill feature in the plains of Narayangaum. It had scarps on two sides and a wall and bastion at one end. The fort is now in ruins. The temple of Hatsabai survives. Most of the fort was dismantled by the E.I.C.
12. Not much is known of the early history of the fort. It was given by the Peshwa to Sayaji Pawar in *saranjam*. It was built at a time when the importance of forts had started declining.

1. P. 1.
2. **Pabar.**
3. ---
4. Ahmadnagar.
5. 19°29' Lat., 73°58' Long.

6. 210 deg., 9 kms. from Akola.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
- 9 Shivaneri Cluster.
10. NK
11. There is only a one line reference to this fort in the Gaz. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available. Its military importance is difficult to assess.

1. P. 23.
2. **Pemgiri.**
3. Shahagad.
4. Ahmadnagar.
5. 19°24' Lat., 74°07' Long.
6. 217 deg., 17 kms from Sangamner.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Shivaneri Cluster.
10. Shahaji in ?
11. The fort was built on a spur of the Baleshwar range. It is said that Shahji renovated an earlier structure known as Shahagad. The fort is in total ruins.
12. The fort's history is connected with Shahaji who used it as a residence for some time when he was fighting the Mughals. it had to be given up and presumably remained in Mughal hands for a long time till taken over by the Marathas in the Peshwa period. There is no reference as to how it was used by the Peshwas.

CLUSTER NUMBER 13. THE LOHAGAD CLUSTER

The Lohagad Cluster has 23 forts : Lohagad, Belapur, Bhivagad, Bhorap, Chanderi, Dhak, Dhangad, Indori, Kothilgad, Kumwarigad, Malanggad., Manaranjan, Manikgad, Peb, Prabalgad, Sarasgad, Shrivardhan, Songiri, Tikona, Tung, Tungi, Visapur, and Vishalgad. See Fig. 37.

The forts lie both East and West of the Sahyadris and it may be argued that those lying on the West of the mountains could have been grouped

under a separate cluster. To a point this is reasonable. However, the present grouping is based on the fact that these forts were tactically linked. They protected the route from Poona to the Konkan through the Borghat. If in the 17th century they resisted a westward advance by the Mughals, then in the 18th century they resisted an eastwards advance by the English.

It is also significant to note that 21 out of 23 forts in the cluster are hill forts. Were they really necessary ? An attempt has been made to answer this question later on.

1. L. 5.
2. **Lohagad.** (See Fig. 38, Photograph No. 18)
3. ---
4. Pune.
5. 18°42' Lat., 73°29' Long.
6. 185 deg., 4 kms. from Malavli.
7. H.F., Ht., 1040 mtrs., ASL.
8. M.F.
9. Lohagad Cluster.
10. Ancient ?
11. Lohagad was built on a side range of the Sahyadri, running eastwards. It divided the Indrayani from the Pawana river basins. The fort was well protected by walls, ramparts, bastions and gates. There are numerous caves on the hill side. The arrangement of the four large and two small gates was very intricate and can still be seen. A long, fortified spur of the fort, known locally as *Vinchukata*, runs towards the present railway line. The approach was from the base village of Lohawadi, through the depression between Lohagad and Visapur. Some old structures survive. A temple and a Muslim pir have been later renovated. A well with steps, *bawadi*, has an inscription crediting the building of the well to Balaji Janardan Bhanu, alias, Nana Fadnis.
12. Lohagad has a long history dating back to at least the Satavahana era. It was occupied by many dymasties, Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas, Yadavas, Nizamshahi, Mughals and Marathas, Lohagad occupied an important place in military affairs in all periods because of its location. Unlike many forts of Western Maharashtra whose importance declined very sharply in the Peshwa period, Lohagad retained its value till 1845 A.D. when last of the E.I.C. garrison evacuated the fort.

1. B. 19.
2. **Belapur.**
3. ---
4. Raigad.
5. 19°00' Lat., 73°07' Long.,
6. 270 deg., 7 kms from Panvel.
7. I.F.
8. F.P.
9. Lohagad Cluster.
10. Portuguese.
11. The fort was built on an island on the mouth of the Panvel creek. It was a small fort, 120 × 60 mtrs. The fortifications consisted of a wall and bastions. Belapur is no longer an island and the fort is in ruins.
12. Historical data is not available. It remained with the Portuguese till captured by the Marathas in 1739 and passed to the E.I.C. in 1818 A.D. It will be seen that Belapur falls well outside the 30 kms. radius from Lohagad. However, it is included as it was the terminating point of the important Poona-Panvel route.

1. B. 36.
2. **Bhivagad.**
3. Bhivagad, Gaurkamat.
4. Raigad.
5. 18.55' Lat., 73.23' Long.
6. 89 deg., 6.5 kms. from Karjat RS.
7. H.F. Ht., 634 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Lohagad Cluster.
10. NK
11. The fort was built on a small hillock below the great spur of Dhak. The route was from the base village of Gaurkamat. There are very few traces of its former structures.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. B. 39.
2. **Bhorap.**
3. Sudhagad.
4. Raigad.

5. 18°33' Lat., 73°19' Long.
6. 88 deg., 10 kms. from Pali.
7. H.F., Ht., 573 mtrs. ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Lohagad Cluster.
10. NK
11. The fort was built on a hill which is today quite close to the Raigad-Pune District boundary. It is one of the better preserved forts and walls and bastions can still be seen. The approach was from the village Bairampada up a watercourse. There are huge gates on the way. The top is quite flat and ruins of buildings can be seen. A temple survives.
12. Historical data is not available. It is said that it was at Parli village, North of the fort, that Annaji Datto, Hirji Pharsand and Babaji Avaji, the faithful soldiers of Shivaji, were trampled to death by an elephant on orders of Sambhaji. If this story is correct then it is more than likely that these stalwarts were kept at Bhore, alias Sudhagad, as prisoners.

1. C. 4.
2. **Chanderi.**
3. ---
4. Raigad.
5. 19°03' Lat., 73°14' Long.
6. 135 deg., 9 kms. from Malang-gad.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Lohagad Cluster.
10. NK
11. The fort was built on a very small hillock near the village Tamsi. There is now no trace of any fortifications.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. D. 16.
2. **Dhak.**
3. ---
4. Raigad.
5. 18°50' Lat., 73°20' Long.
6. 97 deg., 8.5 kms. from Karjat RS.
7. H.F., Ht., 880 mtrs., ASL.

8. F.P.
9. Lohagad Cluster.
10. NK
11. The fort was built on a large, flat spur. The approach is from the base village of Vengaum. On the plateau stands the village of Dhak and nearby, on higher ground, can be seen some fortifications. There is the famous cave with the idol Bhairoba at its end and which is difficult to reach.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. D. 18.
2. **Dhangad.**
3. Gahangad.
4. Pune.
5. 18°31' Lat., 73°30' Long.
6. 270 deg., 35 kms. from Poona.
7. H.F., Ht., 782 mtrs. ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Lohagad Cluster.
10. NK
11. Dhangad was built on a hill opposite Korigad near Mulshi. It was a small fort, but with good defences and was known as the Peshwa's prison.
12. Historical data of any note is not available. In fact, the Gaz. does not show it as a fort. It may have served as an outpost of Korigad.

1. I. 3.
2. **Indori.** (See Fig. 39)
3. ---
4. Pune.
5. 18°44' Lat., 73°44' Long.
6. 325 deg., 27 kms. from Poona.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Lohagad Cluster.
10. Peshwas, middle of 18th century ?

11. It was a small rectangular fort on the banks of the river Indrayani. The fort had a high, strong wall and bastions. The entry was through a massive gate, there was also a secret doorway, *chor darwaza* on the river side. The fort is comparatively well preserved. There is a government cold storage unit within the fort but I found it not in use.
12. Not much is known about its history. It was the seat of Sirdar Dhamdhere who came into prominence in the Peshwa period. It could not have been anything more than a residence as by that time the military importance of forts had declined.

1. K. 51.
2. **Kothilgad.**
3. Kotaligad.
4. Raigad.
5. 18°59' Lat., 73°31' Long.
6. 65 deg., 22 kms. from Karjat RS.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Lohagad Cluster.
10. NK
11. It was a very small fort, hardly 90 × 50 mtrs and built on a low spur. The top was in the shape of a finger or tunnel and was reached by rock cut steps. Below there were two, possibly three, lines of fortifications each with a gate. The fort is in total ruins.
12. Historical data is not available. Its small size would indicate that, at best, it may have served as an outpost.

1. K. 55.
2. **Kumwarigad.** (See Fig. 40)
3. Koraigad.
4. Pune.
5. 18°37' Lat., 73°23' Long.
6. 190 deg., 20 kms. from Lonavla.
7. H.F., Ht., 929 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Lohagad Cluster.
10. NK but pre 1500 A.D.

11. The fort was built on an almost isolated spur. The approach today is either across the Mulshi by launch or a track bypassing I.N.S. Shivaji at Lonavla. It was a fairly large fort, with two gates which can still be seen although in a ruined condition. On the top remains of ponds, caves and the temple of Kumwaridevi can be seen.
12. There is a record of the fort being captured by Malik Ambar in 1486 A.D. It was captured for the Marathas by Dadaji Kondev. It had considerable tactical value as it controlled the Ambavani Pass. It is said that when it was abandoned in 1818 A.D. at the approach of E.I.C. troops, the ornaments of the Devi were sent to the temple of Bumbadevi in Bombay.

1. M. 19.
2. **Malang-gad.** (See. Fig. 41)
3. ---
4. Raigad.
5. 19°06' Lat., 73°11' Long.
6. 162 deg., 14.5 kms. from Kalyan RS.
7. H.F., Ht., 789 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Lohagad Cluster.
10. Raja Nal, 8th century A.D. (tradition)
11. The fort was built on a three tiered hill feature. Nearly halfway up the path, which starts at the base village of Malang-gad, is the samadhi of Baba Malang. This was a flat area where the major portion of the garrison was quartered. The next tier was reached after a stiff climb and a few steps. This was the lower fort enclosed by a wall. The top was reached by a staircase cut out of rock. The steps are rough, of considerable height and difficult to climb. The top of the fort is, however, very small, hardly 40 × 20 mtrs. The fort as a whole is now in ruins.
12. Although the shrine of Baba Malang is famous and attracts a number of visitors, little is known about the fort itself.

1. M. 34.
2. **Manaranjan.** (See Fig. 45)
3. Part of Rajmachi.
4. Pune.

5. 18°50' Lat., 73°24' Long.
6. 30 deg., 8.5 kms. from Lonavla.
7. H.F., Ht., 818 mtrs., ASL.
8. S.F.
9. Lohagad Cluster.
10. Pre 1500 A.D.
11. Along with Shrivardhan it was known as Rajamachi. For description see under Shrivardhan. Manaranjan and Shrivardhan are treated as separate forts because they had distinctly separate fortifications and could be defended individually if the need arose.
12. See under Shrivardhan

1. M. 29.
2. **Manikgad.** (See Fig. 42)
3. ---
4. Raigad.
5. 18°49' Lat. 73°12' Long.
6. 155 deg., 20 kms. from Panvel.
7. H.F., Ht., 575 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Lohagad Cluster.
10. Sardar Angre, 17th century.
11. The fort was built on a dome shaped and isolated hill. It had steep sides and could be approached only from the south where the base village of Vadgaum is located. The top is a grassy plateau and very few ruins can be seen.
12. The fort is said to have been built by Sardar Angre. It was certainly held by him in 1713 A.D. when it was formally ceded to him by King Shahu. It might have served as an outpost of Karnala.

1. P. 21.
2. **Peb.**
3. Vikatgad.
4. Raigad.
5. 18°58' Lat., 73°21' Long.
6. 265 deg., 8 kms. from Neral RS.
7. H.F., Ht., 524 mtrs., ASL.

8. F.P.
9. Lohagad Cluster.
10. NK
11. This was a small fort built on a hill naturally well protected. The path from Neral leads to a patch at the base of the fort from where a further track and rock climb lead to the walls of the fort. The top is small and grassy. The only gate is built in a ravine a little below the top.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. P. 29.
2. **Prabalgad.** (See Fig. 43)
3. ---
4. Raigad.
5. 18°58' Lat., 73°13' Long.
6. 100 deg., 12 kms. from Panvel.
7. H.F., Ht., 730 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Lohagad Cluster.
10. pre 1600 A.D.
11. The fort was built on a hill with a flat top and was well fortified with walls and bastions. The approach from the base village of Thakurwadi was steep. The fort is now in ruins.
12. Now much is known about the history of the fort, Legend has it that Shivaji found a great deal of treasure on the fort. It was the base for a brief insurrection by the Ramoshi Naik brothers but was ruthlessly put down.

1. S. 13.
2. **Sarasgad.** (See Fig. 44)
3. Pali, Aminabad.
4. Raigad.
5. 18°33' Lat., 73°14' Long.
6. Next to Pali.
7. H.F., Ht., 444 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Lohagad Cluster.
10. NK

11. The fort was built on an almost isolated hill overlooking Pali. It had steep sides and adequate fortifications. The approach was both from north and south, the path meeting below a few steps which led to the gate. This gave entry to the lower fort. The upper fort had stronger fortifications and the *bale killa* could be reached only by steep rock cut steps.
12. Historical data is not available. The fort, in addition to affording protection to Pali, may have acted as an outpost of Roha.

1. S. 30.
2. **Shrivardhan.** (See Fig. 45)
3. Along with Manaranjan called Rajamachi.
4. Pune.
5. 18°50' Lat., 73°24' Long.
6. 30 deg., 8.5 kms. from Lonavla.
7. H.F., Ht., 826 mtrs., ASL.
8. S.F./M.F.
9. Lohagad Cluster.
10. Pre 1600 A.D.
11. The fort, along with Manaranjan was built upon a twin peaked hill separated by a col. The higher is the Shrivardhan and the lower in height is the Manaranjan. The fort had a triple line of fortification. Remains of granaries, bastions and buildings can be seen.
12. The early history of the fort is not available. It was captured by Shivaji in 1648. In 1713 King Shahu recognised Kanhoji Angre's right over it. Bajirao had it in 1730 and it remained with the Marathas till 1818 A.D. The military value of the fort must have been considerable but there is a paradox. How and why a naval power like the Angre should advance so much eastwards has not been satisfactorily explained. Its tactical importance, or non importance, has been discussed in Chapter 7.

1. S.44.
2. **Songiri.**
3. ---
4. Raigad.
5. 18°35' Lat. 73°05' Long.
6. 155 deg., 12 kms. from Pen.
7. H.F.

8. F.P.
9. Lohagad Cluster.
10. Pre 1600 A.D.
11. From the available data the position of the fort has been determined as on a small hillock south of Ratangad. The base villages of Kondavi and Divanmal have been located but the SI map does not mark the fort. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available. It has been listed by some authorities (SS, page 73) but its military value, if any, has not been assessed.

1. T.14.
2. **Tikona.** (See Fig. 46, Photograph No. 19)
3. Vitangad.
4. Pune.
5. 18°18' Lat., 73°31' Long.
6. 325 deg., 16 kms. from Paud.
7. H.F., Ht., 1065 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Lohagad Cluster.
10. Pre 1600 A.D.
11. The fort took its name from the triangular shape of the hill on which it was built. The approach is from the base villages of Tikonapeth or Kasinge. The *bale killa* is reached by a steep rock cut staircase. The fort is now in ruins.
12. Historical data is scanty. It must have provided support to Lohagad and Tung but must have also controlled the route to Poona.

1. T. 19
2. **Tung.** (See Fig 47)
3. Kathingad.
4. Pune.
5. 18°39' Lat., 73°27' Long.
6. 191 deg., 12 kms from Malavli Rs.
7. H.F., Ht., 1073 mtrs. ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Lohagad Cluster.
10. Pre 1600 A.D.

11. It was a larger and stronger fort than Tikona. Oblong in shape, it was well protected by walls and bastions. The approach can be from either of the three base villages, Vanmal, Garmal and Tungwadi. Today one can cross the Mulshi lake by launch and ascend from the east. There are a few ruins, including a remarkable three sided tank.
12. Historical data is not available. It was obviously an outpost to Lohagad and meant to control the road to Poona.

1. T. 21.
2. **Tungi.**
3. ---
4. Raigad.
5. 19°03' Lat., 73°29' Long.
6. 87 deg., 20 kms. from Neral.
7. H.F., Ht., 620 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Lohagad Cluster
10. Malik Ahmad, pre 1400 A.D. ?
11. The fort was built on a two kilometre long ridge. The approach was from any of the three base villages of Khandas, Dongar-pada, and Tembhare. The path from the east led to a hamlet-Tungi-and then onwards to the top. The fort is in ruins.
12. Historical data is not available. It may have had some importance as the route to Bhimashankar runs close to it.

1. V. 19.
2. **Visapur.** (See Fig. 38 and Photograph No. 20)
3. ---
4. Pune.
5. 18°43' Lat., 73°29' Long.
6. 155 deg., 2.5 kms. from Malavli RS.
7. H.F., Ht., 1084 mtrs., ASL.
8. S.F.
9. Lohagad Cluster.
10. Balaji Vishwanath during 1713 - 1730 A.D.
11. A larger fort than Lohagad, its majestic, long, rampart still commands attention and respect. The fortification and gates at other places are in ruins. There were two approaches, one from the Malavli side and the

other from between Lohagad and Visapur, through thick jungles and up a water course. The fortifications on this side were blown up by the E.I.C.

12. The history of Visapur is linked with that of Lohagad. It was built at a time when the importance of forts had started declining. Visapur is larger than Lohagad. It is also higher and thus commands Lohagad, a fact that was made use of by the E.I.C. troops who bombarded Lohagad by batteries set up on Visapur. It is, therefore, surprising that the Bahamanis should have chosen the hill of Lohagad than of Visapur for their fort.

1. V. 21.
2. **Vishalgad.**
3. Jinkhed.
4. Raigad.
5. 18°56' Lat., 73°14' Long.
6. 340 deg., 4 kms. from Chauk.
7. H.F., Ht., 574 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Lohagad Cluster.
10. NK
11. Nothing is left of this fort except a few water cisterns and rock cut chambers. The approach was from the base village of Nimbarwadi.
12. Historical data is not available. Its location suggests that it may have acted as an outpost to three forts, Prabal in the North, Karnala in the West, and Manikgad in the South. It is, of course presumed that the three forts were with the same power.

CLUSTER NUMBER 14. THE BOMBAY CLUSTER

The Cluster contains eight forts: Bombay, Elephanta, Mahim, Mazgaum, Sewri, Sion Versova, and Worli. See Fig. 48.

The eight forts have been grouped under a separate cluster because geographically and militarily they had very little in common with the inland forts in the area. The forts are not being described individually as all of them were small, of little consequence by themselves, and no longer exist.

The British power in India grew from three centres - Calcutta, Madras and Bombay. As the Marathas were the predecessors of the British in India it was from Bombay that the main thrust against the Marathas was planned in the early stages. It is, therefore, surprising to note that although the forts were small and incapable of any prolonged defence, they were never tested by the Marathas.

CLUSTER NUMBER 15. THE KULABA CLUSTER

The Kulaba Cluster contains twenty forts : Kulaba, Alibag, Avchitgad, Birwadi, Chaul, Dronagiri, Ghosalgad, Janjira, Padamdurg, Karanja, Karnala, Khanderi, Khubladha, Korlai, Manaranjan, Ratangad, Revdanda, Sagargad, Samnkshi, and Underi. See Fig. 49.

It is mainly a coastal cluster, eight out of twenty being hill forts situated inland. Bombay was held by the E.I.C., Revdanda, Chaul and Korlai were held by the Portuguese Janjira and Underi by the Siddis, and the rest were with the Marathas. It will thus be seen that the cluster saw a great deal of struggle between the different powers. Shivaji clearly saw the danger that came from across the seas and created the Maratha Navy to counter the threat. But the effort came a little too late, the native powers remained at loggerheads with each other and the way was left open for the E.I.C. to become supreme.

1. K. 53.
2. **Kulaba.** (See Fig. 50)
3. Alibag.
4. Raigad.
5. 18°37' Lat., 72°52' Long.
6. 182 deg., 26 kms. from Bombay.
7. I.F.
8. M.F.
9. Kulaba Cluster.
10. Shivaji, 1679-1680 A.D.
11. The fort was built on a rock close to the Alibag town. At low tide it is possible to walk across to the main gateway of the fort. The fort, 275 mtrs. by 100 mtrs. was protected by strong ramparts, 6 to 7 mtrs. high and seventeen bastions. The main gateway was well fortified and faced the city. There was also a small gate on southern side. A novel feature of the fort is that lime mortar was not used.

A small fort like structure called Sarjekot lies close to the fort, towards the shore. It is often called the eighteenth bastion of the main fort.

12. The history of the fort is intimately tied up with the operations of the Maratha Navy, first under Shivaji and Sambhaji and later under Khanaji Angre. The last named held the fort in the name of the Peshwa, but it was ceded to him by King Shau in 1713. From the beginning of its life, Kulaba resisted all attempts of the Portuguese and Siddis to capture it. It fell to the E.I.C. in 1817 but the Angres continued to serve in it and the permanent control passed to E.I.C. only in 1840 when the Angre dynasty was liquidated.

The strategic importance of the fort cannot be over-emphasised. He who controlled Kulaba, controlled the coast between Bombay and Janjira.

1. A. 15.
2. **Alibag.**
3. Hirakot.
4. Raigad.
5. 18°39' Lat., 72°59' Long.
6. NN
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Kulaba Cluster.
10. Khanaji Angre, 1720 A.D.
11. The fort was a small structure with wall and bastion and also known as Hirakot. It is now being used as a jail.
12. The history of the small fort is connected with the Angres. It was here that Balaji Bajirao, the future Peshwa, showed great courage during the fight between Manoji Angre, and his half brother Sambhaji. It was, obviously, an outpost of Kulaba on the coast to provide logistic support.

1. A. 33.
2. **Avachitgad.**
3. Medha.
4. Raigad.
5. 18°26' Lat., 73°08' Long.
6. 350 deg., 3 kms. from Roha.

7. H.F., Ht., 977 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Kulaba Cluster.
10. Shivaji (tradition), probably pre - 1600, but renovated by Shivaji.
11. The fort was built on a spur jutting out from the main range. The approach was from Roha side, up a water course, or from the base village, Medha, in the north. The two paths met on a narrow ledge, and traversing the eastern face reached the main gate which was protected by two bastions. The *bale killa* was on the southern side of the fort and had its own wall and bastions.
12. Historical events of note probably did not take place as there is no record of it. It must have been important as it controlled the mouth of the Kundalika river and the North-South route passing a little east of Roha.

1. B. 44.
2. **Birwadi.**
3. ---
4. Raigad.
5. 18°26' Lat., 73°02' Long.
6. 260 deg., 8 kms. from Roha.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Kulaba Cluster.
10. Shivaji in 1650s
11. The fort was built on a low, broken edge of a range. From a distance it appears as if there are two isolated hills. The approach was either from the village Birwadi or from village Khaire in the north. Another village, Gavchora, is situated very close to the base of the fort. It had strong fortifications, mostly in the east. The gate was in the northern angle and was protected by four bastions. There was another gate in the east, protected by two bastions. The fort is now in ruins.
12. Historical data is not available. There is no record of it being captured by the Mughals. The exact reasons for Shivaji to choose this site is difficult to surmise.

1. C. 12.
2. **Chaul.**
3. Agarkot, Palm Garden Fort.

4. Raigad.
5. 18°33' Lat., 73°00' Long.
6. 149 deg., 13 kms. from Alibag.
7. C.F.
8. F.P.
9. Kulaba Cluster.
10. Portuguese, early 16th century.
11. The ancient port of Chaul had always some kind of fortification to protect its trading activities. The Chaul fort was properly called Agarkot. It was protected by the sea on the west, by the Kundalika creek on south and by a ditch and wall in the east. There is hardly a trace left of the fort. In the northern portion of Chaul Sambhaji built a small fort called Rajkot. It was totally destroyed by the Angres in 1748 A.D.
12. Chaul has had a long history. It was known by various names, Chamula in 130 A.D.; Chivli in 1470 A.D. and finally Chaul. Historical data is not available except that the fort and the town was occupied by Shahaji while serving with the Adishahi, but reverted to the Portuguese. It was finally captured by the Marathas during Chimnaji Appa's campaign of 1739 and was held by the Angres till 1840 A.D.

1. D. 25.
2. **Dronagiri.**
3. ---
4. Raigad.
5. 18°51' Lat., 72°56' Long.
6. 225 deg., 24 kms. from Panvel.
7. C.F.
8. F.P.
9. Kulaba Cluster.
10. NK
11. It was a very small fort built on the mainland opposite the Karanja island on which stood the Karanja fort. There are now no traces of the fort. Many would place Karanja and Dronagiri as the same fort but the available evidence suggests that there were two forts.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. G. 10.
2. **Ghosalgad.**
3. Ghosale.
4. Raigad.
5. 18°22' Lat., 73°05' Long.
6. 200 deg., kms. from Roha.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Kulaba Cluster.
10. Nizamshahi Sultans 1400 A.D. ?
11. The fort was built on a very low, isolated hill north of the Mandad river. It had four levels rising one above the other. The steep ascent started only after the second level. The fort is in total ruins.
12. The fort passed through many hands. Nizamshahi, Adilshahi and the Siddis, who acquired it from the Adilshahis. It was captured by Shivaji in 1648 A.D. Soon after his death it must have reverted to the Siddis as the next reference to it is of its capture by the Marathas in 1735, led by Peshwa Bajirao.

1. J.8.
2. **Janjira.** (See Fig. 51 and Photograph No. 21)
3. Mehar-ruba, Mehar-rusa.
4. Raigad.
5. 18°16' Lat., 72°55' Long.
6. 190 deg., 5 kms. from Murud
7. I.F.
8. M.F.
9. Kulaba Cluster.
10. Siddis in ?
11. The fort was built on an island which lay in the mouth of the Murud creek. It was extremely strong with high ramparts and bastions. It was, perhaps, the strongest fort along the coast of India. The ramparts and bastions are well preserved but the buildings inside are in ruins. A mosque, a powder magazine and a palace can be made out.
12. Janjira was the main citadel of the Siddis and all attempts to capture it by any power, Portuguese, Maratha or the E.I.C. failed. It was the key to naval supremacy in that area.

1. K. 16.
2. **Kamsa.**
3. Kamsagad, Padamdurg.
4. Raigad.
5. 18°17' Lat., 72°55' Long.
6. 265 deg., 2.5. kms. from Murud.
7. I.F.
8. F.P.
9. Kulaba Cluster.
10. Shivaji ? completed by Sambhaji.
11. The fort was built on a rocky island off the coast of Murud. It had high stone wall with a gate on the southern side. It is said that Sambhaji had planned to build an inner fort also but it was never completed. The fort is in the open sea and one marvels at the way the Marathas must have carried all the building material. In spite of 300 years of battering by the sea, the wall is still in a fair shape. My attempt to land on the gate steps were foiled by the very high seas and the reluctance on the part of the boatman to take risks.
12. The fort was built purely as a foil to Janjira and to seal it off. In this it succeeded only partly. Its importance declined sharply in the Angre period.

1. K. 25.
2. **Karanja.**
3. ---
4. Raigad.
5. 18°52' Lat., 72°55' Long.
6. 175 deg., 4 kms. from Uran.
7. I.F.
8. F.P.
9. Kulaba Cluster.
10. NK.
11. The fort was built on an island called Karanja. It was square in shape with bastions at the four corners. The island and the fort have disappeared.
12. Historical data is not available. It must have served as an outpost and along with Elephanta, given protection to the anchorage at the mouth of the Thane creek. The E.I.C. realised its importance correctly and

tried their best to acquire it. Ultimately it was ceded to them by the Treaty of Salbai in 1782 A.D.

1. K. 28.
2. **Karanala.** (See Fig. 52)
3. ---
4. Raigad.
5. 18°53' Lat., 73°07' Long.
6. 175 deg., 11 kms. from Panvel.
7. H.F., Ht., 439 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Kulaba Cluster.
10. Yadavas ? Pre 1400 A.D.
11. The fort was built at two levels. The lower one was extensively fortified. A path led to the upper fort ending with some rock cut steps at the end. On the top there is a pinnacle with a cave at its base. Most probably it was used as a granary.
12. Karanala's history is available in fragments. It was with the Kings of Gujarat. They sought Portuguese help in their fight with the Nizamshai but paid dearly for it. Not only the fort was not handed over by the Portuguese but they acquired some other territory as well, and eventually bought the fort from the Nizamshahi for Rs. 17,500 ! It became an important fort of Upper Konkan and controlled the LCs in that area.

1. K. 38.
2. **Khanderi.**
3. ---
4. Raigad.
5. 18°52' Lat., 72°42' Long.
6. 180 deg., 20 kms from the southern tip of Bombay.
7. I.F.
8. F.P.
9. Kulaba Cluster.
10. Shivaji in 1660 A.D.
11. The fort was built on an island and was not large. The island, some 2 kms long and less than a kilometre broad, was walled. The fort is in ruins.

12. The fort was built by Shivaji to check the expansion of the Siddi's power to the north. The British at Bombay were alarmed by this development and tried their best to prevent the fort from being built but failed. The Siddis, on the other hand, having failed to capture Khanderi, occupied a smaller island close to it and built a fort - the Underi fort.

1. K. 43.
2. **Khubladha.**
3. Thal.
4. Raigad.
5. 18°35' Lat., 72°55' Long.
6. 355 deg., 5 kms. from Alibag.
7. C.F.
8. F.P.
9. Kulaba Cluster.
10. Sambhaji Angre in 1740
11. It was a square fort with a wall and four bastions at the four corners. The fort is in ruins and the area inside is now being used by fishermen for drying their catch.
12. The fort was built by Sambhaji Angre during his war of succession with Manoji and had local and temporary importance only.

1. K. 50
2. **Korlai.** (See Fig. 53 and Photograph 22)
3. ---
4. Raigad.
5. 18°30' Lat., 72°52' Long.
6. 178 deg., 12 kms. from Alibag.
7. C.F./H
8. S.F.
9. Kulaba Cluster.
10. Pre 1500 A.D., repaired by Burhan Nizamshah in 1594 and Portuguese in 1600 A.D.
11. The fort was built on a hill on the southern end of the Roha creek. It was a comparatively small fort - 700 × 30 mtrs-but was well fortified. There was a wall and numerous bastions. There were walls separating one area of the fort from the other. Remanents of a church

can still be seen. The base village is Korlai and the original approach was along a steep cliff. Today there is a rough road which goes up to the Korlai Lighthouse and from here a flight of steps of modern construction, lead to a gate. The fort, except for portions of the wall, is in ruins.

12. The history of the fort is the history of the constant strife between the Nizamshahi and the Portuguese. It remained with the latter for well over a century till captured by the Marathas in 1739 and by the E.I.C. in 1818 A.D.

Along with Revdanda, Korlai exercised considerable influence on local politics and the regional warfare.

1. M. 33
2. **Manaranjan.**
3. ---
4. Raigad.
5. 18°49' Lat., 73°24' Long.
6. Very close to Reva.
7. C.F.
8. F.P.
9. Kulaba Cluster.
10. NK
11. Nothing at all is known about the physical appearance of this fort and nothing can be seen, but that it existed is certain.
12. Historical data is not available. It may have played some role in the control of Karanja creek.

1. R. 17.
2. **Ratangad.**
3. ---
4. Raigad.
5. 18°40' Lat., 73°07' Long.
6. 130 deg., 9 kms. from Pen.
7. H.F., Ht., 569 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Kulaba Cluster.
10. Baburao Palshikar in ?

11. The fort was built on a flat topped hill next to the Mira Dongar. The approach was from the north and was not too difficult. Nothing remains of its former fortifications.
12. Historical data is not available except that Shaistekhan, the Mughal general besieged the fort but could not capture it due to the spirited defence by Kavji Pawar.

1. R. 22.
2. **Revdanda.** (See Fig. 54 and Photograph No. 23)
3. ---
4. Raigad.
5. 18°33' Lat., 72°53' Long.
6. 153 deg., 11 kms. from Alibag.
7. C.F.
8. S.F.
9. Kulaba Cluster.
10. Portuguese in 1558 A.D.
11. Revdanda was a massive fort commanding the mouth of the Kundalika river. It had high walls, a rampart at some places, with several bastions. There were two gates. A peculiar underground passage is pointed out but its exact significance is not known. The buildings inside are in ruins. A road passes through the two gates.
12. Revdanda has a long history. Built by the Portuguese as a screen to Chaul, it served as a major naval depot and post between Goa and Daman. All attempts to capture it failed till it was taken by the Marathas in 1740 and by the E.I.C. in 1806 A.D. There was a brief period of occupation by the Angres in 1817 A.D.

1. S. 2.
2. **Sagargad.**
3. Kheldurg, Khaladurg.
4. Raigad.
5. 18°40' Lat., 72°58' Long.
6. 87 deg., 10 kms. from Alibag.
7. H.F., Ht., 410 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Kulaba Cluster.
10. NK but pre 1600 A.D.

11. It was a fairly large fort, about 1100 by 275 mtrs. It was fortified by walls and bastions. An isolated pinnacle called monkey point, *vanar tok*, is a prominent feature. The fort is now in ruins.
12. Historical data is not available, except that it was one of the 13 forts ceded to Khanaji Angre by King Shahu. It was often used as a prison.

1. S. 9.
2. **Samkshi.**
3. Badrud-din.
4. Raigad.
5. 18°31' Lat., 73°08' Long.
6. 160 deg., 24 kms. from Pen.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Kulaba Cluster.
10. NK but pre 1600 A.D.
11. The fort was built on a very small hill near the base village of Nidhivli which lies north of the fort. Halfway up the slope is the *darga* of Saint Badur-din from where a sharp turn takes one to the top. The fort is in ruins.
12. The history of the fort shows once again how foreign powers took advantage of the rivalry between native rulers. This fort, along with Karnala was purchased by the Portuguese after they responded to the cry of help of the Gujarat King, but took advantage of the situation and did not return the fort to its original holder.

1. U. 4.
2. **Underi.**
3. Jaidurg.
4. Raigad.
5. 18°53' Lat., 72°45' Long.
6. 178 deg., 18 kms. from Bombay.
7. I.F.
8. F.P.
9. Kulaba Cluster.
10. Siddis in 1680 A.D.
11. A much smaller island than Khanderi, it was fortified by the Siddis by wall and bastions. It is now in ruins.

12. Underi was fortified in retaliation of the Marathas building a fort on Khanderi. It did not, in any way, diminish Maratha naval power.

CLUSTER NUMBER 16. THE RAIGAD CLUSTER

The cluster contains fourteen forts: Raigad, Bhopalgad, Chambhargad, Hindola, Kangori, Kaula, Kurdugad, Lingana, Mangad, Rajgad, Singhad, Surgad, Talegad, and Torna. See Fig. 55.

This was the core cluster of Shivaji's kingdom. Raigad, Rajgad, Singhgad and Torna were the four forts on which the canopy of Shivaji's power rested. The treaty of Purandar in 1665 A.D. saw Singhgad being handed over to the Mughals but this did not deter Shivaji and it changed hands many times. It is also noteworthy that Mirza Raja Jai Singh allowed Shivaji to keep Rajgad, Raigad and Torna. This was diplomacy at its best.

1. R. 1.
2. **Raigad.** (See Fig. 56 and Photograph No. 24)
3. Rairi, Islamabad, Islamgad.
4. Raigad.
5. 18°14' Lat., 73°25' Long.
6. 05 deg., 16 kms. from Mahad.
7. H.F., Ht., 862 mtrs., ASL.
8. M.F.
9. Raigad Cluster.
10. Shivaji, on a hill fortified to a limited extent earlier.
11. So much has been written about the fort that only the main features are recounted here. The fort was built on a large wedge, separated from the main range by a ravine. The natural defences by way of almost vertical scarps were further strengthened by ramparts and bastions. The approach today is from a spot where the Chittadarwaza formerly stood. It is not a difficult ascent and there are some 80 steps towards the end. There were two main gates, Nana Darwaza, and Mahadarwaza. Both were flanked by bastions. The top is fairly flat and ruins of numerous building can be seen. The M.T.D.C. has a Rest House. It is understood that a ropeway is proposed to be built, a move which does not find favour with the locals.
12. The history of the fort has been well documented and is readily available in book and various articles. From the military point of view,

it enabled Shivaji control over the Javli - Mahad area, right up to the sea. It was a safe residence where he was crowned and where he died.

1. B. 42.
2. **Bhupalgad.**
3. ---
4. Raigad.
5. 18°06' Lat., 73°21' Long.
6. 290 deg., 8 kms. from Mahad.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Raigad Cluster.
10. NK
11. Clearly shown in SI map, Sheet 47-F-8, the fort does not figure in the Gaz. The physical features are not available.
12. Historical data is not available. An outpost to Raigad on its southern side is all that the fort could have been.

1. C. 2.
2. **Chambhargad.**
3. ---
4. Raigad.
5. 18°06' Lat., 73°26' Long.
6. 30 deg., 2 kms. from Mahad.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Raigad Cluster.
10. NK
11. This fort is not mentioned in the Gaz. but is shown on SI map. Sheet 47-F-8 and hence included. Physical data is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. H. 8.
2. **Hindola.**
3. ---
4. Raigad.
5. 18°13' Lat., 73°10' Long.

6. 14 deg., 13.5 kms. from Birwadi.
7. H.F., Ht. 1010 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Raigad Cluster.
10. NK
11. The physical description of the fort is not available.
12. The location of the fort has been fixed based entirely on a remark that it was built on a high peak near Wali village and that it was used to relay signals between Raigad and Rajgad.

1. K. 22.
2. **Kangori.**
3. Mangalgad.
4. Raigad.
5. 18°05' Lat., 73°35' Long.
6. 330 deg., 17 kms. from Mahableshwar.
7. H.F., Ht., 750 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Raigad Cluster.
10. NK
11. The fort was built on a steep spur. It was not very large - 450 × 80 mtrs. The approach was from the base village Nigdi, but from the western face, round the northern tip and then across the eastern slope. The fortifications, which consisted of a wall and bastions, are now in ruins.
12. Not much of its history is available. It was captured by Shivaji in 1648 A.D. It was in later periods used as a prison and it is recorded that Chatur Sing, the brother of the Raja of Satara was confined here. The name of Bapu Gokhale is also associated with the fort. Its military utility is not clear, but it could have served as a link fort between Raigad and Pratapgad.

1. K. 30.
2. **Kaula Killa.** (See Fig. 57)
3. ---
4. Raigad.
5. 18°08' Lat., 73°36' Long.
6. 65 deg., 15 kms. from Mahad.

7. H.F., Ht., 662 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Raigad Cluster.
10. NK but pre 1600 A.D.
11. The fort was built on a rock. There is no trace of any fortification and its physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available. It must have been of some tactical value as it was situated in the Varandha Ghat. The present Mahad-Bhor road passes through this Ghat and the medieval route was the same. The fort acquires some importance.

1. K. 57.
2. **Kurdugad.**
3. Vishramgad.
4. Raigad.
5. 18°22' Lat., 73°25' Long.
6. 64 deg., 14 kms. from Nizampur.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Raigad Cluster.
10. Shivaji ?
11. The fort was built on a detached portion of the range and was very small, hardly 25 mtrs by 12 mtrs. It was protected on three sides by scarps and by a wall on the fourth. The approach was from the base village Jite up a slope and through a gate in the south-east corner. On top there is a huge pinnacle with caves at its base. The fort is now in ruins.
12. Historical data is not available. It could have had local importance only.

1. L. 4.
2. **Lingana.**
3. ---
4. Raigad.
5. 18°15' Lat., 75.30' long.
6. 50 deg., 10 kms. from raigad.
7. H.F., Ht., 882 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.

9. Raigad Cluster.
10. Shivaji in 1648 A.D.
11. The fort was built almost halfway between Raigad and Rajgad. The first part of the ascent is easy, the second difficult. It is said that at one time there were steps. The fort is in ruins.
12. Historical data is not available, except that at times it was used as a State prison. Tactically it acted as a link between Raigad and Torna.

1. M. 25.
2. **Mangad.**
3. Mastiwade.
4. Raigad.
5. 18°18' Lat., 73°21' Long.
6. 91 deg., 5 kms. from Nizampur.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Raigad Cluster.
10. Shivaji (tradition)
11. The fort was built on a hillock near the village Mashiwadi, halfway up the hill is the temple of Vinzaidevi. The fort was small, hardly 45 mtrs long and very narrow. The fortification consisted of a wall and bastions. It is now in total ruins.
12. Historical data is not available. The smallest of the three Mangaum group of forts - Tale, Mangad, Kurdu, - the group as a whole might have acted as a screen to Raigad.

1. R. 5.
2. **Rajgad.** (See Fig. 58)
3. Shahanbigad.
4. Pune.
5. 18°15' Lat., 73°41' Long.
6. 215 deg., 30 kms. from Pune.
7. H.F., Ht., 1317 mtrs., ASL.
8. M.F.
9. Riagad Cluster.
10. NK but pre 1600 A.D. and almost totally added to by Shivaji, 1648 - 1650 A.D.

11. Shivaji's keen eye noticed the military potential of the hill then known as Murumdevi. There were some fortifications of an earlier period but Shivaji built it almost new. Extensively protected by walls, ramparts, bastions, the three finger like spurs running like a fan from the central higher feature, were converted into three very strongly fortified *machis*. The central higher feature was converted into a *Bale killa*. The palace which was inside the citadel was a marvel of construction.
12. The history of Rajgad is really the history of Shivaji for most of his life. It was his capital for 25 years. During the post Aurangzeb period its importance fell sharply. The Peshwas preferred Purandar although Rajgad was better defended. Probabaly the need for comfort had taken over from the need of a strong sanctuary.

1. S. 36.
2. **Singhgad.** (See Photograph No. 25)
3. Kondana, Bakshidabax.
4. Pune.
5. 18°22' Lat., 73°45' Long.
6. 215 deg., 19 kms. from Poona.
7. H.F., Ht., 1319 mtrs., ASL.
8. S.F.
9. Pune.
10. Koli Kings, pre 1300 A.D.
11. Singhgad had strong fortifications in addition to the natural protection afforded by scarps and very steep slopes. The walls, bastions were constructed at only key places. There were two gates, the *Punedarwaza* in the north-east and the *Kalyan Darwaza* in the south-east. The top of the fort was not very even. There were numerous buildings to store powder, granary, stables and quarters for troops. All these are in ruins. Tanaji's *samadhi* and Lokmanya Tilak's residence are some of the newer buildings.
12. Singhgad has a long history, the earliest known reference being its capture by the Tughlaks in 1340 A.D. Since then all the powers in the South had occupied the fort at one time or the other. In fact it changed hands very often, at least seven times between 1644 and 1704 A.D.
From the military point of view its importance was not as great as is made out. It could not have defended Poona as all the attacks came from the East. It also did not command any important route or pass.

1. S. 46.
2. **Surgad.**
3. Ghera Surgad.
4. Raigad.
5. 18°27' Lat., 73°14' Long.
6. 80 deg., 12 kms. from Roha.
7. H.F., Ht. 307 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Raigad Cluster.
10. Siddis ?
11. The fort was built on a low, narrow spur running north-south. The approach was from the base village Ghjer Surgad in the south-west or from Garihawadi in the north. The path passed the temple of Ansaidevi. Not much remains of the former fortifications. A large bastion at the southern end may have been a part of a *bale killa*.
12. Historical data is not available. It may have provided some protection to Roha.

1. T. 3.
2. **Talegad.** (See Fig. 59)
3. ---
4. Raigad.
5. 18°17' Lat., 73°08' Long.
6. 175 deg., 16 kms. from Roha.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Raigad Cluster.
10. NK
11. The fort was built on a hill close to Tale village. There were three line of fortifications with a massive gate protected by a bastion. The inside of the fort was not very large-360 × 30 mtrs. The fort is in ruins.
12. Not much is known about its history. It was captured by Shivaji in 1648 A.D. It must have passed to the Siddis after Shivaji's and Sambhaji's death because the next reference we have is that of being captured by Peshwa Bajirao in 1735 A.D. Militarily it could have been only an outpost.

1. T. 16.
2. **Torna.** (See Fig. 60)
3. Prachandagad, Khutublai.
4. Pune.
5. 18°16' Lat., 73°37' Long.
6. 220 deg., 35 kms. from Poona.
7. H.F., Ht., 1403 mtrs., ASL.
8. S.F.
9. Raigad Cluster.
10. NK pre 1600 A.D.
11. The fort was built on a high feature and very strongly fortified. The approach was from the base village Velhe. The first gate was the *Bini Darwaza* and after a turn came the *Kothi Darwaza*. There were two *machis* both fortified by ramparts and bastions. The fort is fast going into ruins.
12. Not much is known about the history of the fort. It was the first to be captured by Shivaji and changed hands a few times. Militarily its importance declined once the capital shifted to Raigad.

CLUSTER NUMBER 17. THE BANKOT CLUSTER

The Bankot Cluster contains twelve forts : Bankot, Danda Rajapur, Devgad, Fattedgad, Gova, Jamba, Kanakdurg, Madgad, Mandangad, Parkot, Shrivardhan and Suvarnadurg. See Fig. 61.

The cluster appears to have had some control over the area between Anjanvel in the South and Kulaba in the North. In Bankot and Suvarnadurg it had two major and vital naval centres and that is why, perhaps, all the powers in the region tried to capture these forts.

1. B. 14.
2. **Bankot.**
3. Himmatgad, Fort Victoria.
4. Ratnagiri.
5. 17°55' Lat., 73°00' Long.
6. 320 deg., 27 kms. from Dapoli.
7. C.F.
8. M.F.
9. Bankot Cluster.

10. Habshis and Angres.
11. The fort was built on the South bank of the Bankot creek, at the mouth of the Savitri river. It was almost square in shape, protected by the sea on three sides and by a ditch on the landward side. There was a connecting wall between the two levels of fortifications which included bastions. The lower level was built by the Habshis and the upper level by the Angres. From here some steps takes one to the top. Today the steps are somewhat intact but the other fortifications are in ruins.
12. Bankot had an interesting history. It was built by Abyssinian pirates as a shelter, but was taken over by the Adilshahs in 1548 A.D. Captured by the Portuguese soon after it served them also as a naval depot. The Angres captured it in 1600 and it remained with them for a century and a half. In 1755 A.D. Commander Jones of the E.I.C. captured it after a stiff fight. This was the war where, regrettably, the Peshwa and the English joined hands to destroy the power of the Angres. The military value of the fort was considerable. It controlled the passage of vessels through the creek and also all maritime operations within its Circle of Control.

1. D. 3.
2. **Danda Rajapur.**
3. ---
4. Raigad.
5. 18°15' Lat., 73°01' Long.
6. 130 deg., 10 kms. from Murud.
7. C.F./H
8. F.P.
9. Bankot Cluster.
10. Shivaji ?
11. The fort was built on the extreme corner of the Murud coastline before the creek which has to be crossed while going to Janjira. Nothing of the fort now remains. Original physical description is not available.
12. Two historical events connected with the fort are usually mentioned. The first was its capture and strengthening by Shivaji preparatory to his attack on Janjira (which failed). The second was its capture by the Siddis in 1671 A.D. and the ruthless massacre of its garrison.

1. D. 12.
2. **Devgad.**
3. ---
4. Raigad.
5. 17°59' Lat., 73°01' Long.
6. 175 deg., 7 kms. from Shrivardhan.
7. C.F.
8. F.P.
9. Bankot Cluster.
10. NK
11. It was a small fort at the mouth of the Savitri river and on the opposite bank from Bankot. Very little of the original fortifications now remain.
12. Historical data is not available. Obviously it must have acted as a screen to Bankot in the north.

1. F. 2.
2. **Fattegad.** (See Fig. 63)
3. ---
4. Ratnagiri.
5. See Fig. 63.
6. See Fig. 63.
7. C.F.
8. F.P.
9. Bankot Cluster.
10. Angres ?
11. This was one of the group of four forts of Harnai. Nothing of the fort now remains.
12. Historical data is not available. It may have served as an outpost to Suvarnadurg.

1. G. 12.
2. **Gova.** (See Figs. 62 and 63)
3. Govagad.
4. Ratnagiri.
5. See Fig. 63.
6. See Fig. 63.
7. C.F.

8. F.P.
9. Bankot Cluster.
10. Angres ?
11. Built on a very small hill on the coast, it was one of the four Harnai forts. It was stronger than Fattegad or Kanakdurg and its fortifications can still be made out.
12. Historical data is not available. It may have acted as an outpost to Suvarnadurg.

1. J. 4
2. **Jamba.**
3. ---
4. Ratnagiri.
5. 17°51' Lat., 73°14' Long.
6. 12 deg., 24 kms. from Dapoli.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Bankot Cluster.
10. Angres ?
11. See under Mandangad.
12. See under Mandangad.

1. K. 20.
2. **Kanakdurg.** (See Fig. 63)
3. ---
4. Ratnagiri.
5. See Fig. 63.
6. See Fig. 63.
7. C.F.
8. F.P.
9. Bankot Cluster.
10. Siddis 1700 A.D. 7 Shahu 1710 A.D. 7
11. It was a very small fort situated on the coast opposite Suvarnadurg. The sea protected it on three sides and a wall on the fourth. There is now very little trace of its existence.
12. Historical data is not available. The theory that the fort was built by the Siddis in 1700 or Shahu in 1710 A.D. is incorrect. By 1696 A.D.

Suvarnadurg was firmly in the hands of Khanaji Angre and he was not the kind of an admiral who would permit another power to build a fort right opposite his important base at Suvarnadurg. It was captured by the Peshwa - E.I.C. forces in 1755 and remained with the former till 1818 A.D.

1. M. 4.
2. **Madgad.**
3. ---
4. Raigad.
5. 18°08' Lat., 72°54' Long.
6. 170 deg., 20 kms. from Murud.
7. C.F./H.
8. F.P.
9. Bankot Cluster.
10. NK
11. It was a small fort of which nothing now remains. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available except that it was with the Peshwa in 1744, and was totally destroyed by the Siddi Muhammed Khan in 1830 A.D. This later date appears doubtful as by then the E.I.C. was in firm control of all the coastal forts.

1. M. 24.
2. **Mandangad.**
3. ---
4. Ratnagiri.
5. 17°59' Lat., 73°14' Long.
6. 12 deg., 24 kms. from Dapoli.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Bankot Cluster.
10. Habshis, Shivaji and Angres, 16th and 17th centuries.
11. Mandangad is the central of the three forts, Jamba being in the north and Parkot in the south. They have been treated as three separate forts because each had independent fortifications and could be defended individually. The fort is in ruins and physical description is not available.

12. It has been suggested (Ratnagiri District Gazetteer, page 777) that Ptolemy's Madangora is the same as Mandangad. If true the fort is of great antiquity but then it raises the question as to why no records are available. According to local folk lore, Mandangad was built by Shivaji, Parkot by the Habshis and Jamba by the Angres.

1. P. 11.
2. **Parkot.**
3. ---
4. Ratnagiri.
5. See under Mandangad.
6. See under Mandangad.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Bankot Cluster.
10. See under Mandangad.
11. Physical description is not available.
12. Its history must have been linked with that of Mandangad.

1. S. 29.
2. **Shrivardhan.**
3. ---
4. Raigad.
5. 18°03' Lat., 73°01' Long.
6. 170 deg., 32 kms. from Murud.
7. C.F.
8. F.P.
9. Bankot Cluster.
10. Shivaji, 1679 A.D.
11. Shrivardhan was more or less a fortified town. However, Shivaji while building the fortifications must have had a military aim in mind, as other wise the fortifications would not have been so extensive.
12. Historical data is not available. It is listed as one of the 13 forts which were handed over to Khanaji Angre by Shahu.

1. S. 48.
2. **Suvarnadurg.** (See Fig. 63)
3. Harnai.
4. Ratnagiri.
5. See Fig. 63.
6. 295 deg., 13 kms. from Dapoli.
7. I.F.
8. M.F.
9. Bankot Cluster.
10. Bijapur Kings, 16th century, Shivaji, 1660 ?
11. The fort was built on a rocky island quite close to the coast and the village Harnai. It was well protected by strong ramparts and bastions. The gate was located well above the high tide mark. Much of the structures were cut from rock and huge 3 mtrs blocks were used to build the rampart. Mortar was not used. There were several buildings and water tanks. Except for the buildings, the fort is in a tolerable state. It is said that Shivaji built this fort (Sardesai, Vol I. page 129) but it appears that he built upon an existing structure.
12. The fort's early history is not available. Shivaji captured it in 1669 it in 1669 A.D. It was with the Angres in 1718 and his occupation was recognised by Shahu. It was captured by the joint Maratha-EIC forces in 1755 and remained with the Marathas till 1802. The fort had considerable naval importance and was one of the main bases of the Angres.

CLUSTER NUMBER 18. THE PRATAPGAD CLUSTER

The cluster contains fourteen forts: Pratapgad, Chandragad, Kamalgad, Kenjalgad, Mahimangad, Mahipatgad, Makarandgad, Mohangad, Palgad, Pandavgad, Rasalgad, Rohida, Shirval and Sunargad. See Fig. 64.

All forts are hill forts and the cluster forms the core of the Maratha kingdom in the Konkan. Before Pratapgad was built in 1656 A.D., the area west of the Sahyadri was 'ruled' by many petty chiefs, the Mores being the most prominent. They enjoyed their watan by acknowledging the overlordship of Bijapur. This rest of the area east of the Sahyadri also had many forts and petty chiefs, but these were under the more direct control of Bijapur.

The Mahadev hills and other short spurs rose from the Sahyadri and ran eastwards and south-eastwards. The region was very thickly wooded. A number of passes across these spurs and the main range connected the Konkan with the Mavals and the Desh. Under these conditions there was no central point or focus around which political or military authority could be established. Shivaji filled the need by building Pratapgad.

1. P. 32.
2. **Pratapgad.** (See Fig. 65)
3. ---
4. Satara.
5. 17°56' Lat., 73°55' Long.
6. 280 deg., 9 kms. from Mahabaleshwar.
7. H.F., Ht., 1097 mtrs., ASL.
8. M.F.
9. Pratapgad Cluster.
10. Shivaji in 1656 A.D.
11. Pratapgad was one of the strongest forts of Shivaji and one which he built from scratch, under the supervision of Moropant Pingle. The site was well chosen. Almost verticle scarps defended the fort in the west. Ramparts and bastions were provided on other sides. The ramparts are, however, not very broad. There was an upper and a lower level of space protected by fortifications. Today a road takes one to very near the top. It has been well documented and described by many authors.
12. The most famous event connected with the fort was the encounter between Shivaji and Afzalkhan. From the military point of view it served Shivaji's purpose admirably. It provided him with a stronghold around which a defensive network could be built. It controlled the two main passes in the area—Ambavani and Pir Pass.

1. C. 8.
2. **Chandragad.**
3. ---
4. Raigad.
5. 17°59' Lat., 73°38' Long.
6. 255 deg., 8 kms. from Mahabaleshwar.
7. H.F., Ht., 689 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.

9. Pratapgad Cluster.
10. Mores of Javli.
11. The physical description is not available. It is not given in the Gaz. or other sources.
12. Historical data is not available. It was a small fort and could not have been anything more than an outpost.

1. K. 9.
2. **Kamalgad** (See Fig. 66)
3. ---
4. Satara.
5. 17°58' Lat., 73°44' Long.
6. 345 deg., 15 kms. from Wai.
7. H.F., Ht., 1378 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Pratapgad Cluster.
10. NK
11. The fort was built on a ridge running west to east. It over-looked the Walki river in the North and the Krishna river in the South. The approach was from the base village Asangaum and was quite difficult. There is another path from the village Paratwadi and this meets the first one about half way up. A ladder was required to climb the last ten mtrs or so. The fort is now in ruins.
12. Historical data is not available. Legend has it that the deep well within the fort had small niches along its walls and that prisoners were kept there. They had only two choices. Either they could starve to death or they could jump in the well and drown to death !

1. K. 35.
2. **Kenjalgad**. (See Fig. 67)
3. Kelanja.
4. Satara.
5. 18°01' Lat., 73°45' Long.
6. 318 deg., 17 kms. from Wai.
7. H.F., Ht., 1200 mtrs., ASL.
8. S.F.
9. Pratapgad Cluster.
10. Bhoj Raja, 1178-1193 A.D.

11. It was a formidable fort, protected alike by scarps and a wall with bastion. The approach from Wai side was very steep, the scarp being one of the highest amongst the Satara forts. There was only one entrance reached by a flight of steps which were awe inspiring. There was a sheer cliff face on one side and a sheer drop on the other. The fort is now in ruins.
12. Not much is known about the fort. Shivaji himself led the assault when he captured it. Elphinston described the fort as so strong that even a handful of soldiers could defend it against vastly superior forces. Yet it fell to the E.I.C. after a very brief show of resistance.

1. M. 12.
2. **Mahimangad.** (See Fig. 68)
3. Mahimandangad.
4. Satara.
5. 17°42' Lat., 73°37' Long.
6. 272 deg., 37 kms. from Satara.
7. H.F., Ht., 953 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Pratapgad Cluster.
10. NK but pre 1600 A.D.
11. There is only one Mahimandangad shown in SS and Kille, and that is near Dahiwadi. The SI map, Sheet 47-G clearly shows this fort situated on the borders of the present Ratnagiri and Satara districts. The location corresponds to the Mahimandangad mentioned in SS. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available. It may have served as a link fort in the chain that extends southwards from Pratapgad.

1. M. 14.
2. **Mahipatgad.**
3. ---
4. Ratnagiri.
5. 17°50' Lat., 73°30' Long.
6. 45 deg., 17.5 kms. from Khed.
7. H.F., Ht., 959 mtrs., ASL.
8. S.F.
9. Pratapgad Cluster.

10. Shivaji ?
11. The fort was built on a spur which is almost parallel to the main Sahyadri range. It is between Sumargad in the North and Rasalgad in the South. The approach was from the base village Poladpur and was steep. Fortifications were only at a few places and only traces remain. There were four gateways. *Kotwal Darwaza* was in the north, *Laldevadi* in the north-east, *Pusati* in the east and *Yeshwant Darwaza* in the south-east.
12. Historical data is not available. Its size, location and strength would indicate that it must have had some importance.

1. M. 15.
2. **Makarandgad.**
3. ---
4. Satara.
5. 17°50' Lat., 73°34' Long.
6. 165 deg., 9 kms. from Pratapgad.
7. H.F., Ht., 1239 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Pratapgad Cluster.
10. Shivaji in 1656.
11. SS describes the fort correctly as in line between Pratapgad and Vasota but calls it, wrongly, Mahimandangad. I have used the name given in SI map, Sheet 47-G. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. M. 43.
2. **Mohangad.**
3. Jasalodgad.
4. Pune.
5. 18°11' Lat., 75°54' Long.
6. 200 deg., 5 kms. from Velvand (Welwand).
7. H.F., Ht., 1100 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Pratapgad Cluster.
10. NK
11. Mohangad or Jasalodgad is not mentioned in the Gaz. (Pune or Satara Districts). SS mentions it but with a "bakhar ?" annotation against it. SI

map does not show it. However, Sardesai (Vol. I, page 328) mentions in passing that the fort is located on a range running south from Welwand to Goleshwar (Govadeshwar in SI map). He gives the name of the base village as Jayapad and states further that the name Jasalodgad was due to an imperfect reading of the modi script and it should be Jayapatgad. The SI map, Sheet 47-F-12 spells it as Jayatpad.

Physical description is not available.

12. Historical data is not available.

1. P. 5.
2. **Palgad.**
3. ---
4. Ratnagiri.
5. 17°50' Lat., 73°21' Long.
6. 340 deg., 11.25 kms., from Khed.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Pratapgad Cluster.
10. Shivaji ?
11. The fort was built on a small, not very high, spur. The approach from the base village Pali was easy. Nothing is known about its fortifications.
12. Historical data is not available. It could not have been anything other than an outpost.

1. P. 8.
2. **Pandavgad** (See Fig. 69)
3. ---
4. Satara.
5. 17°59' Lat., 73°52' Long.
6. 330 deg., 5.5 kms. from Wai.
7. H.F., Ht., 1277 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Pratapgad Cluster.
10. King Bhoj in 1178-1193 A.D.
11. It was almost a square fort with natural defences. The approach from the base villages of Shelarwadi and Pandavwadi was steep and difficult. Half way up there are a few steps with a cliff on one side and

a ravine on the other. There was a wall with bastions and a massive gate. There were many tanks within. The fort is now in total ruins.

12. Only a few historical facts are known. It was a Bijapur fort captured by Shivaji in 1673. Aurangzeb took it in 1701 but the Marathas recaptured it soon after, and remained with them till 1818 A.D. It was here that Balaji Vishwanath took shelter before consolidating his position as the Peshwa. The Dengle rebellion also started at this fort.

1. R. 16.
2. **Rasalgad.**
3. ---
4. Ratnagiri.
5. 17°45' Lat., 73°30' Long.
6. 70 deg., 13.75 kms. from Khed.
7. H.F., Ht., 535 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Pratapgad Cluster.
10. NK
11. The fort was built on the same range as Mahipatgad but at a much lower altitude. The approach was from the base village of Mandev and was not very difficult. The main gate, facing north, was very strong with bastions on either side. On the top there are two temples, Solai and Waghai, where an annual fair is held.
12. Historical data is not available. Its role was not likely to have been more than that of an outpost.

1. R. 23.
2. **Rohida.** (See Fig. 70)
3. Vichitragegad.
4. Pune.
5. 18°06' Lat., 73°47' Long.
6. 205 deg., 6 kms. from Bhor.
7. H.F., Ht., 1116 mtrs., ASL.
8. S.F.
9. Pratapgad Cluster.
10. Ancient ? Yadav Dynasty ?
11. It was a small fort with a wall, three bastions and a gate. The ascent from the base villages of Bazarwadi and Ramoshiwadi was not too

difficult. A temple and a *deepmal* can still be seen. On the second gate there is sculpted the royal insignia - lion and eagle - of the Yadav kings and hence the surmise that it may have been built by them or occupied by them.

12. Historical data is not available. Legend has it that Shivaji had a chief of loose morals buried alive in one of the bastions. It is most unlikely and its origin is not known.

1. S. 26.
2. **Shirval.**
3. Subhanmangalgad.
4. Satara.
5. 18°03' Lat., 73°52' Long.
6. 155 deg., 13 kms. from Bhor.
7. H.F., Ht., 1373 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Pratapgad Cluster.
10. NK
11. Considering the very meagre information available, and the very rough location shown in Kille, I have placed the fort at the above location and not near the town of Shirval which is on the border of the present Pune and Satara districts. The physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. S. 45.
2. **Sumargad.**
3. ---
4. Ratnagiri.
5. 17°54' Lat., 73°30' Long.
6. 44 deg., 20 kms. from Khed.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Pratapgad Cluster.
10. NK but pre 1600 A.D.
11. It was built on a range betw. Mahipatgad and Rasalgad. The approach was from either of the two forts. The track passes through a depression and along the base village of Beldarwadi, which is a little high on the hill. The fort was small but well protected with a wall and

bastions. It is said that there were no gates and entry was by means of ladders only. The fort is in ruins.

12. Historical data is not available.

CLUSTER NUMBER 19. THE SATARA CLUSTER

This cluster has eleven forts: Satara, Bavdhan, Chandan, Jangli Jaygad, Kamalgad, Nandgiri, Sajjangad, Vairatgad, Vandan, Vardhangad, and Vasota. See Fig. 71.

This is one of the main cluster lying east of the Sahyadri. Since the threat to Shivaji, whether from the Adilshahi or the Mughals, was always from the east, this cluster played an important part in his military planning and operations. As will be seen later this cluster was the second line of defence, the first being a chain of forts lying in the Mavals and the beginnings of the Deccan Plateau.

1. S. 15.
2. **Satara.** (See Fig. 72)
3. Ajinkyatara, Azimtara, Azamgarh.
4. Satara.
5. 17°40' Lat., 73°59' Long.
6. Very close, South of Satara city.
7. H.F., Ht., 994 mtrs., ASL.
8. M.F.
9. Satara Cluster.
10. Bhoj Raja, 1178-1193 A.D.
11. It was a formidable fort with a maximum length of about 1000 mtrs., running east to west, and a breadth of about 500 mtrs. Strong masonry walls and bastions protected it. There were two gates, the main one being about 250 mtrs from the north-west angle. A sally port was in the south. Ruins of wells, tanks, buildings and store houses can be seen. Today there is a radio relay station located at the top.
12. Satara and its fort have a long history. According to Ferishta, the fort was built by the Bahamani Sultan Mahamud Shah, but this probably refers to the extensions or renovations. The fort was captured by Shivaji in 1673 and by Aurangzeb in 1700 A.D. when he changed the name to Azimtara, after Prince Azzam. This may have been corrupted to 'Ajinkyatara'. Recaptured by the Marathas in 1701 A.D. it became

the seat of the Rajas of Satara in 1749 till the year 1848 A.D. when it was annexed by the E.I.C. under the Doctrine of Lapse.

The fort was often used as a State prison. Some of the notable prisoners housed here were : Chandbibi (1580), Tarabai and Rajasbai (1730), Khanaji Bhonsale (1732), and Chand Saheb, the Nawab of Arcot (1749).

1. B. 18.
2. **Bavdhan.**
3. ---
4. Satara.
5. 17°55' Lat., 73°53' Long.
6. 170 deg., 4 kms. from Wai.
7. H.F., Ht., 1002 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Satara Cluster.
10. NK
11. Bavdhan is not shown on SI maps but is listed in SS and other sources. It was a large fort with a wide, flat plateau on the top, but water was scarce. Very little of the original fortifications can now be seen.
12. Historical data is not available. In spite of its size, it could not support a large garrison because of lack of water and hence it could have played a minor role only.

1. C. 3.
2. **Chandan.** (See Fig. 73)
3. ---
4. Satara.
5. 17°50' Lat., 74°03' Long.
6. 20 deg., 20 kms. from Satara.
7. H.F., Ht., 1123 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Satara Cluster.
10. Bhoj Raja, 1178-1193 A.D.
11. Lying close to Vandan, it was lower and less formidable. It was a triangular fort with its longest side approximately 500 mtrs. long. It had three bastions. The route was from the col separating Chandan

from Vandan. The main gate was in the south-east corner. Most of the fortifications and structures inside are in ruins.

12. The history of Chandan is linked with that of Vandan. It was captured by Shivaji in 1673, by Aurangzeb in 1701 and re-captured by the Marathas in 1706 A.D. It surrendered without a fight to the E.I.C. in 1818 A.D. Shahu rested here for some time during the war of succession. Along with Vandan, the fort played an important role in military operations in this region.

1. J. 7.
2. **Jangli Jaygad.** (See Fig. 74)
3. ---
4. Satara.
5. 17°29' Lat., 73°44' Long.
6. 300 deg., 20.5 kms. from Patan.
7. H.F., Ht., 1029 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Satara Cluster.
10. NK but pre 1600 A.D.
11. It was a strong but small fort located in thick forests infested with wild animals. This state, to a lessened degree, continues till today. It was somewhat oblong in shape. The fort is in total ruins.
12. Historical data is not available. One incident noted in records is the fight between Bapu Gokhale and Tai Telin. Its military value may have stemmed from the fact that it overlooked Kumbharli Ghat, through which the main Chiplun-Karad route passes.

1. K. 10.
2. **Kamalgad.**
3. ---
4. Satara.
5. 17°59' Lat., 74°01' Long.
6. 02 deg., 32 kms. from Satara.
7. H.F., Ht., 1098 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Satara Cluster.
10. NK

11. The fort was built on a hill north of Chandan. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

Note. : SS lists two forts, Kamalgad and Kama'lgad (Long a as in father). The location of the first is given as "North of Mahableshwar" and of the second as "10 miles West of Wai." These two locations are in fact, the same on the map. The SI map 47-G shows Kamalgad correctly, but the latter is not shown either on 47-G or 47-K. The base village is also not mentioned which would have helped in finding out the correct location. The Gazetteer of Satara District lists it as "a small hill North of Vandan" and this has been used to fix the location as given above.

1. N. 5.
2. **Nandgiri.**
3. Kalyangad.
4. Satara.
5. 17°47' Lat., 74°07' Long.
6. 340 deg., 10 kms. from Koregaum.
7. H.F., Ht., 1025 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Satara Cluster.
10. Bhoj Raja, 1178-1193 A.D.
11. The fort was built on a range running roughly north-south and being a little lower than the Vandan range. The fort was on the southernmost tip. The approach from the base village of Dhumalwadi was steep and led to an outer and an inner gate. The fort is in total ruins. Only a basement inside the fort and a water tank just outside the wall can be seen.
12. Historical data is not available. It was captured by Shivaji in 1673 and broken up by the E.I.C. in 1857 A.D. It does not appear as if the fort played any significant part in military affairs of the period.

1. S. 4.
2. **Sajjangad.** (See Fig. 75)
3. Parali, Navarastara.
4. Satara.
5. 17°38' Lat., 73°55' Long.
6. 245 deg., 9 kms from Satara.

7. H.F., Ht., 998 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Satara Cluster.
10. NK but pre 1600 A.D.
11. The fort was more or less triangular in shape, about 500 mtrs long and 300 mtrs wide at its base. The road from Satara crosses the Varmodi river and passes through Parli village from where the ascent starts. The gate faced south. Today many ruins of buildings can be seen. The Hemadpanti temple and caves would date the fort from pre Muslim period.
12. The name Sajjangad was given after it was captured by Shivaji in 1673. Aurangzeb called it Navarastara. It reverted to the Marathas in 1706 and remained in their possession till 1818 A.D.

1. V. 2.
2. **Vairatgad.** (See Fig. 76)
3. ---
4. Satara.
5. 17°52' Lat., 73°55' Long.
6. 160 deg., 9 kms. from Wai.
7. H.F., Ht., 1201 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Satara Cluster.
10. Bhoj raja, 1178-1193 A.D.
11. The fort was strongly built. The ascent was from the base village Jambhulne and was steep. The flat top was surrounded by ramparts and bastions. The parapet was loop holed for musketry. This would indicate that the parapet, or some part of the rampart was built later on when fire arms came in regular use.
12. Historical data is not available. It appears that the name is derived from the tribe "Vairat" which lived in these parts.

1. V. 4.
2. **Vandan.** (See Fig. 73)
3. ---
4. Satara Cluster.
5. 17°50' Lat., 74°02' Long.
6. 02 deg., 6.5 kms. from Satara.

7. H.F., Ht., 1168 mtrs., ASL.
8. S.F.
9. Satara Cluster.
10. Adilshah ?
11. It was a strong and important fort. It was almost square, 500×600 mtrs. It had walls and bastions. The base villages are Katanganwadi in the west, Balamachiwadi in the north and Ravtivre in the south. The route is up to the col from any one of the villages and then by a steep path with a few steps cut out of rock. The first and second gates are not as massive as the third. A small hillock on the top probably housed the *bale killa*. A number of ruins and a temple can be seen.
12. The history of the fort is not well documented which is surprising as its location and strength must have given it a significant role to play. Some fortifications and buildings and guns were destroyed by Captain Rose of the E.I.C. in 1857.

1. V. 6.
2. **Vardhangad.** (See Fig. 77)
3. ---
4. Satara.
5. $17^{\circ}43'$ Lat., $74^{\circ}16'$ Long.
6. 80 deg., 12 kms. from Koregaum.
7. H.F. Ht., 1064 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Satara Cluster.
10. Shivaji, 1673-74 A.D.
11. It was a strong forts with ramparts a little below the top. It was rectangular in shape, the longest side being about 600 mtrs and the shortest about 400 mtrs. The ascent, though steep, was not very difficult and started from the base village of Vardhan. The fort is now in ruins.
12. Not much of its history is known. It must have acted as a link fort between Satara and Mahimangad, the latter being the easternmost fort of Shivaji's kingdom.

1. V. 10.
2. **Vasota.** (See Fig. 78)
3. Vyaghragad, Vajragad.

4. Satara.
5. 17°40' Lat., 73°42' Long.
6. 170 deg., 39 kms. from Mahableshwar.
7. H.F., Ht., 1100 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Satara Cluster.
10. Bhoj raja, 1178-1193 A.D.
11. It was a difficult fort to reach. The route was from the base village Vasote via the *met* Indoli. The path passed through thick jungles. The fort had two gates, one inside the other. Walls and bastions gave protection. It is said that a sheer 45 mtrs high rock was used to fling the prisoners to their deaths. The fort is in ruins.
12. The fort was under the control of Sirdar Shirkes and Manes. It was captured by Shivaji in 1655 A.D. The fort saw a fight between Bapu Gokhale and Tai Telin. Bajirao II took shelter here for some time after he fled from the Battle of Kirkee. It was, no doubt, an important fort in the chain of forts running southwards from Pratapgad.

CLUSTER NUMBER 20. THE ANJANVEL CLUSTER

The cluster has six forts : Anjanvel, Bhairavgad, Dabhol, Govalkot, Jaigad and Vijaygad. See Fig. 79.

There are two inland forts guarding the remaining coastal forts. It was not an important cluster but it linked the Bankot cluster in the north with the Ratnagiri cluster in the south and thus not leave any portion of the coastline without cover.

1. A. 24.
2. Anjanvel.
3. Gopalgad.
4. Ratnagiri.
5. 17°30' Lat., 73°07' Long.
6. 185 deg., 8 kms. from Debhol.
7. C.F.
8. M.F.
9. Anjanvel Cluster.
10. Bijapur Sultans, 16th century, strengthened by Shivaji in 1660 and by Sambhaji in 1681-89 A.D.

11. The fort was built on the banks of the Anjanvel creek. It was a fairly large fort protected by the sea on three sides and by a ditch on the landward side. The walls were 6 mtrs. high and about 2.5 mtrs. thick. There were twelve bastions and two gates. The fort is now in ruins.
12. The history of the fort records that it was captured by Shivaji in 1660 who then improved upon the defences. Further improvements were carried out by Sambhaji. Captured by the Siddis in 1699, it was won by the Angres in 1740 A.D. The Peshwa had it in 1755 and the E.I.C. in 1818 A.D. Anjanvel was an important naval post of the Maratha Navy as is evident from the renovation done by both Shivaji and Sambhaji.

1. B. 22.
2. **Bhairavgad.**
3. ---
4. Ratnagiri.
5. 17°29' lat., 73°31' Long.
6. 170 deg., 5 kms. from Chiplun.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Anjanvel Cluster.
10. NK
11. It was a very small fort and the one surviving bastion is the sole witness to its existence.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. D. 14.
2. **Dabhol.**
3. ---
4. Ratnagiri.
5. 17°34' Lat., 73°08' Long.
6. 287 deg., 40 kms. from Chiplun.
7. C.F.
8. F.P.
9. Anjanvel Cluster.
10. Ancient ?
11. Dabhol was a flourishing trading centre from ancient times and it is safe to surmise that it was protected by a fort from early days. The original fort was destroyed by Malik Kafur in 1312 A.D. The new

fortifications, drawn over a long period encircled most of the town and as such Dabhol can be considered as a fortified town rather than a separate fort. It was described in 1670 by the traveller Thevenot as a strong and handsome fort of Shivaji. Now there is no trace of it.

12. Along with Anjanvel, Dabhol figured in the operations of the Portuguese, the Angres and the Peshwas. It was an outpost of Anjanvel.

1. G. 13.
2. **Govalkot.** (See Fig. 80)
3. ---
4. Ratnagiri.
5. 17°31' Lat., 73°30' Long.
6. 02 deg., 5 kms from Chiplun.
7. L.F./H.
8. F.P.
9. Anjanvel Cluster.
10. ? repaired by Shivaji in 1670.
11. The fort was built on a small hillock on the banks of the Vashishti river which surrounded it on three sides. The walls and the bastions were not very strong. It had two gates, one facing north and the other east. The fort is now in ruins.
12. Not much of its history is known. The Angres had it in 1744, and the Peshwa captured it, with the help of the E.I.C. in 1755 A.D. From the tactical point of view it appeared to be the garrison fort of Chiplun.

1. J. 1.
2. **Jaigad.**
3. ---
4. Ratnagiri.
5. 17°17' Lat., 73°14' Long.
6. 352 deg., 36 kms. from Ratnagiri.
7. C.F.
8. S.P.
9. Anjanvel Cluster.
10. Bijapur ?
11. This strong fort was built on a small hillock overlooking the mouth of the Shastri river. It has strong ramparts and bastions. The lower wall

was along the sea and steps led from it to the upper level and its main gate. There was also a transverse wall connecting the two. The fort is now in ruins.

12. The history of the fort revolves round the Maratha Navy, although it was first used by pirates in 1583 A.D. It was an important secondary fort for the Angres.

1. V. 16.
2. **Vijaygad.**
3. ---
4. Ratnagiri.
5. 17°17' Lat., 73°14' Long.
6. 352 deg., 37 kms. from Ratnagiri.
7. C.F.
8. F.P.
9. Anjanvel Cluster.
10. Shivaji ?
11. This was a satellite fort of Jaigad and built on the opposite bank of the Shastri river. It was a very small fort with weak defences. The fort is in ruins.
12. Its history must have been linked with that of Jaigad.

CLUSTER NUMBER 21. THE PRACHITGAD CLUSTER

The Prachitgad cluster contained ten forts : Prachitgad, Bahirgad, Bhairavgad, Bhavangad, Dategad, Devrukh, Gunwantgad, Helvak, Mahimangad, and Randhiv. All except one are hill forts. See Fig. 81.

It was an important cluster although it did not include any 'famous' names. It protected the eastern flank of Central Konkan. It lay in the path of any advance on the axis Karad-Chiplun or Karad-Ratnagiri. It linked the Satara Cluster in the North-East, Anjanvel Cluster in the North-West, Panhala Cluster in the South-East and the Ratnagiri Cluster in the South-West.

1. P. 30.
2. **Prachitgad.** (See Fig. 82)
3. Uchitgad.
4. Ratnagiri.

5. 17°13' Lat., 73°42' Long.
6. 20 deg., 19 kms. from Devrukh.
7. H.F.
8. M.F.
9. Prachitgad Cluster.
10. NK but pre 1450 A.D.
11. It was a long narrow fort 350 × 100 mtrs built on a hill which is today on the boundary of the Sangli and Ratnagiri Districts. It was surrounded by dense forests and the terrain was difficult to cross. The approach was from the base village of Shringarpur and Dhangarwadi. The path is, for some distance, along the bed of a mountain stream and therefore, unpassable during the monsoons. The fort had walls, bastions and other buildings which are now in ruins.
12. This history of the fort is not available. Trimbakji Dengle is supposed to have kept Chatursingh a prisoner on the fort in 1812. It passed to the E.I.C. in 1818 A.D. The strength of the fort no doubt gave it some military importance and it was a focal point for the forts in this area.

1. B. 6.
2. **Bahirgad.**
3. ---
4. Sangli.
5. 17°12' Lat., 73°28' Long.
6. 178 deg., 2 kms from Prachitgad.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Prachitgad Cluster.
10. NK
11. The fort could not be traced on SI maps and the location is based on a rough and short description in Kille. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available. It was, obviously an outpost of Prachitgad.

1. B. 24.
2. **Bhairavgad.** (See Fig. 83)
3. ---

4. Satara.
5. 17°19' lat., 73°41' Long.
6. 253 deg., 22 kms. from Patan.
7. H.F., Ht., 789 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Prachitgad Cluster.
10. Bhoj raja, 1178-1193 A.D.
11. The fort was built on a hill lying astride the present Satara Ratnagiri border. The approach was from the base village of Patharpunj and was not very difficult. The Bhairav temple near the top is very famous. The fort is in ruins.
12. Historical data is not available. It may have served as a link fort to Jangli Jaygad in the north and Prachitgad in the south.

1. B. 34.
2. **Bhavangad.**
3. ---
4. Ratnagiri.
5. 17°15' lat., 73°50' Long.
6. 350 deg., 20 kms. from Devrukh.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Prachitgad Cluster.
10. NK
11. It was a very small fort situated near the village of Chikli. No idea can be had of its original condition from the site that can be seen now.
12. Nothing is known about its history or military importance.

1. D. 4.
2. **Dategad.** (See Fig. 84)
3. Sundergad, Ghera Dategad.
4. Satara.
5. 17°20' Lat., 73°56' Long.
6. 270 deg., 5 kms. from Patan.
7. H.F., Ht., 600 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Prachitgad Cluster.
10. NK but pre 1600 A.D.

11. The fort was built on a high hill with a natural scarp on its two sides. There was a wall and bastions as additional protection. A stiff ascent led to the main gate set in the west face. From here a path with a few steps led to a tunnel like passage and then to the top. Ruins of a well and a dungeon can be seen.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. D. 13.
2. **Devrukh.**
3. ---
4. Ratnagiri.
5. 17°03' Lat., 73°51' Long.
6. 80 deg., 44 kms. from Ratnagiri.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Prachitgad Cluster.
10. NK

11. Devrukh is not listed as a fort in the Gaz. or shown on the map. It was thought to be the base village of Mahipatgad. However, there are other references indicating that there was a small fort a little away from the village. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available. Devrukh, however, was an important centre for the routes in the area and the fort must have played some role.

1. G. 15
2. **Gunwantgad.** (See Fig. 85)
3. Morgiri.
4. Satara.
5. 17°18' Lat., 73°52' Long.
6. 230 deg., 7.5 kms. from Patan.
7. H.F., Ht., 608 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Prachitgad Cluster.
10. NK but pre 1600 A.D.

11. The fort was built on a high, oblong hill and had a steep and difficult ascent. Physical description is not available. The fort is in ruins.
12. Historical data is not available. The Fig. 85 is reconstructed from SI map.

1. H. 7.
2. **Helvak.**
3. ---
4. Satara.
5. 17°22' Lat., 73°44' Long.
6. 284 deg., 50 kms. from Karad.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Prachitgad Cluster.
10. NK
11. Hlevak has not been listed as a fort in SS. However there are indications of former fortifications. Moreover, it was located right at the mouth of the famous Kumbharli Pass and it is more than likely that a fort was built to guard it.
12. Historical data is not available. Its tactical value was due to its location.

1. M. 11.
2. **Mahimangad.**
3. Maimangad, Mahimatgad.
4. Ratnagiri.
5. 17°07' Lat., 73°41' Long.
6. 70 deg., 10 kms. from Devrukh.
7. H.F., Ht., 808 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Prachitgad Cluster.
10. NK
11. Mahimangad in Ratnagiri is not listed in SS but is clearly shown in SI map, Sheet 47-G. However, it is marked Maimanged in topo sheet 47-G-10. The location is the same as given in SS for Mahimatgad. I have retained the name Mahimangad as given in the main SI map-Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. R. 14.
2. **Randhiv.**
3. ---

4. Sangli.
5. 17°14' Lat., 73°44' Long.
6. 87 deg., 2 kms. from Prachitgad.
7. H.F., Ht., 991 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Prachitgad Cluster.
10. NK
11. The fort was built on a spur very close to Prachitgad. A ledge surrounded the whole fort. In addition it had towers loop holed for musketry. There was only one gate giving access to the very small top 180 × 90 mtrs. The fort is in ruins.
12. Historical data is not available. Obviously it must have been an outpost of Prachitgad.

CLUSTER NUMBER 22. THE RATNAGIRI CLUSTER

The Cluster has three forts : Ratnagiri, Purnagad and Sathavli. It is purely a coastal cluster. See Fig. 86.

The three forts could have been included in the lower cluster. However, it has been shown as an independent cluster to recognise the immense importance of Ratnagiri as a naval base.

1. R. 19.
2. **Ratnagiri.** (See Fig. 87)
3. Ramdurg.
4. Ratnagiri.
5. 16°59' Lat., 73°16' Long.
6. NN
7. C.F.
8. M.F.
9. Ratnagiri Cluster.
10. Bahamani (tradition) ; Bijapur, 16th century ; extensively renovated by Shivaji in 1670 A.D.
11. Ratnagiri is a very ancient town and trading centre and it was bound to have had some kind of fortifications. It is likely that with the increase in trade in the 14th and 15th centuries, the harbour was fortified. The fort as seen today took shape only in the 16th century. Most of the remains seen are those built by Shivaji.

It was a large fort with the sea on three sides and a ditch on the landward side. This has now disappeared. The main gate in the east gives entry to the lower fort. The inner fort was built on a small hillock in the north-west corner. It was well protected by walls and bastions.

12. The history of the fort is mostly linked with that of the Maratha Navy. Its value declined only with the fall of the Angres in 1755 but it remained in Maratha hands right till 1818 A.D. As a matter of interest, Lokmanya Tilak was born under the shadows of the fort in 1856.

1. P. 34.
2. **Purnagad.**
3. ---
4. Ratnagiri.
5. 16°48' Lat., 73°19' Long.
6. 160 deg., 20 kms. from Ratnagiri.
7. C.F.
8. F.P.
9. Ratnagiri Cluster.
10. Shivaji ?
11. The fort was built on the mouth of the Muchkundi river or Purnagad creek. It was fairly large and its ruined state gives some idea of its former fortifications. Today rice cultivation is carried on inside.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. S. 16.
2. **Sathavli.**
3. ---
4. Ratnagiri.
5. 16°46' Lat., 73°23' Longts.
6. 140 deg., 30 kms. from Ratnagiri.
7. C.F.
8. F.P.
9. Ratnagiri Cluster.
10. NK
11. It was a very small fort built on the northern bank of the Muchkundi river close to the town of Sathavli. Though small it was strongly protected by a wall and bastions. The fort is now almost disappeared.

12. Historical data is not available. It is recorded as one of the 13 forts handed over to Khanaji Angre by Shahu.

CLUSTER NUMBER 23. THE PANHALA CLUSTER

The cluster contains nine forts : Panhala, Bagni, Bahadurwadi, Bahem, Bavda, Kagal, Machal, Pavangad and Vishalgad. See Fig. 88.

This covers the eastern spur of the Sahyadri as well as open country—a fact reflected in having four out of the nine forts as land forts. The Cluster is closest to Bijapur. It was next to Sangli and Miraj which became the advance or jumping off points for the Mughals. The east-west routes, Sangli-Ratnagiri and Sangli-Malwan, passed through it. The cluster also straddled the north-south route from Satara to Sawantwadi via Kolhapur. This shows the strategic importance of the cluster. The forts in it played considerable part in Shivaji's battles in this area.

1. P. 9.
2. **Panhala.** (See Fig. 89)
3. Shahanbidurg.
4. Kolhapur.
5. 16°50' Lat., 74°04' Long.
6. 322 deg., 18 kms. from Kolhapur.
7. H.F., Ht., 940 mtrs., ASL.
8. M.F.
9. Panhala Cluster.
10. King Bhoj 1178-93, extended by Bijapur 1489 A.D.
11. Panhala was a very large fort with a circumference of approximately 7.25 kms.. It had natural as well as man made defences. Half of it had a high scarp or precipice and the rest had ramparts with bastions. There were many gates, buildings and three very large granaries which are still in good shape. Many of the buildings, though in a bad shape, give an idea of its former glory. The fort has been well documented.
12. Panhala has a chequered history. It saw the Yadav, Bahamani, and Adilshai dynasties come and go. There are a number of inscriptions ascribed to Ibrahim Adilshah (1534-53 A.D.) Shivaji captured it in 1654 immediately after the Battle of Pratapgad. The story of his escape from Panhala when besieged by the Siddi, and the heroic sacrifice of Baji Prabhu Deshpande is well known and does not warrant a

repetition. It was taken and re-taken four times between 1673 and 1702 A.D. The fort figured prominently in the war of succession between Shahu and Tarabai. It came under E.I.C. control briefly in 1827 and permanently in 1844 A.D.

1. B. 2.
2. **Bagni.**
3. ---
4. Sangli.
5. 16°53' Lat., 74°37' Long.
6. 270 deg., 27 kms. from Sangli.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Panhala Cluster.
10. NK but pre 1600 A.D.
11. The fort was adjoining the village and had a wall and moat. It has now disappeared.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. B. 3.
2. **Bahadurwadi.**
3. ---
4. Sangli.
5. 16°53' Lat., 74°20' Long.
6. 269 deg., 37 kms. from Sangli.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Panhala Cluster.
10. Mahipatrao Ghorpade, on orders of the Peshwa, 1761-62 A.D.
11. This fort is not listed in SS or Kille. There is a brief mention in the Gaz. It is also shown in SI map, Sheet 47-L-5. The fort consisted of three enclosures, one within the other, the innermost being very heavily fortified. There was a ditch and the ramparts have a parapet.
12. Historical data is not available. The tactical necessity for building the fort is not clear. By 1761 the importance of forts had started declining and the area was so firmly under the control of the Peshwa that there was no threat and hence no need for a new fort.

1. B. 4.
2. **Bahem.**
3. ---
4. Sangli.
5. 17°07' Lat., 74°16' Long.
6. North, 10 kms. from Islampur.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Panhala Cluster.
10. NK
11. SS gives only a very rough location, north-east of Peth without giving any distance. SI map, Sheet 47-K does not show it. The location given above is a calculated guess.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. B. 17.
2. **Bavda.**
3. Gagangad.
4. Kolhapur.
5. 16°35' Lat., 73°48' Long.
6. 247 degs., 47 kms. from Kolhapur.
7. H.F., Ht., 760 mtrs., ASL.
8. S.F.
9. Panhala Cluster.
10. Bijapur, 16th century ?
11. Bavda was built on a peak which had (and still has) very thick forests. This plus the steep ascent from the base village of Bavda made reaching the fort difficult. Ramparts, bastions and two gates existed. The fort is now in total ruins.
12. Bavda (from which the family name of Bavdekar is derived) was with Bijapur and was captured by Shivaji in 1660. It went to the Mughals in 1689 but was retaken by Ramchandra Nilkanth in 1706 A.D. It was, at one time, the capital of the Kolhapur branch of the Bhonsales. It was taken over by the E.I.C. after the Gadkari rebellion in 1844 A.D.

1. K. 3.
2. **Kagal.**
3. ---
4. Kolhapur.

5. 16°37' Lat., 74°18' Long.
6. 145 deg., 16 kms. from Kolhapur.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Panhala Cluster.
10. Yeshwantrao Shinde of Kolhapur in 1740 A.D.
11. It was a small square fort with thick walls and bastions at the four corners. The fort does not exist anymore.
12. The fort has a tragic history. It was destroyed by Kolhapur forces, rebuilt in 1813 but again destroyed by the E.I.C. in 1858 A.D. It may have been used as a check point on the Kolhapur-Belgaum route.

1. M. 1.
2. **Machal.**
3. ---
4. Kolhapur.
5. 16°54' Lat., 73°47' Long.
6. Very close to Vishalgad.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Panhala Cluster.
10. NK
11. The fort was built on a peak next to Vishalgad. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available. It was, obviously an outpost of Vishalgad.

1. P. 20
2. **Pavangad.**
3. ---
4. Kolhapur.
5. 16°50' Lat., 74°07' Long.
6. Satellite of Panhala.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Panhala Cluster.
10. NK, but later than Panhala.

11. The fort was built about one kilometre east of Panhala and was its satellite. It was on a high rock with a verticle or near verticle face except at a few places where a wall was built. It was dismantled by the E.I.C. in 1844 A.D.
12. Its history is linked with that of Panhala. The purpose of building it can only be attributed to the need of denying high ground to an enemy which was so close to the main fort.

1. V. 20.
2. **Vishalgad.** (See Fig. 90)
3. Khelna, Satkarlana.
4. Kolhapur.
5. 16°53' Lat., 73°45' Long.
6. 271 deg., 55 kms. from Kolhapur.
7. H.F., Ht., 1025 mtrs., ASL.
8. S.F.
9. Panhala Cluster.
10. King Bhupal in 1000 A.D. (Tradition)
11. The fort was about 370 × 315 mtrs and was well protected, by scarp, wall and bastions. The fort, and what is most saddening, the *samadhi* of Baji Prabhu who made the supreme sacrifice, are in ruins. One cannot understand the apathy of the government or those interested in Maratha history. Every where one sees the tombs of Mughal generals, or British officers neatly maintained, but those of the Marathas, sadly neglected.
12. Vishalgad has a long history, dating back to at least 1247 A.D. as recorded in an inscription on one of the bastions. Shankar Rao More defeated the Bahamani general Malik-ul-Fuzar in 1453 but the fort was later captured by Mohammed Gawan in 1469 A.D. It passed to Bijapur in 1489, to Shivaji in 1659 and to the E.I.C. in 1844, when it was mostly dismantled. At one time it was given in inam to Parashuram Trimbak and his descendents are, it is believed, still living at the base of the fort.

CLUSTER NUMBER 24. THE VIJAYDURG CLUSTER

The cluster contains seven forts : Vijaydurg, Ambolgad, Devgad, Kamte Kot, Khare Patan, Rajapur and Yeshwantgad. It is purely a coastal cluster and there is not a single hill fort within it. See Fig. 91.

The importance of the Cluster is derived from the great value of Vijaydurg in naval operations. It was sought by all regional powers. Three major naval actions took place in its environs. It effectively linked Ratnagiri in the north and Malwan in the south.

1. V. 15
2. **Vijaydurg.** (See Fig. 92)
3. Gheria.
4. Ratnagiri.
5. 16°32' Lat., 73°17' Long.
6. 172 deg., 50 kms. from Ratnagiri.
7. C.F.
8. M. F.
9. Vijaydurg Cluster.
10. Bijapur, 16th century ; strengthened by Shivaji, 1654 ; built by Shivaji, 1653 ? (Sardesai, Vol. I, page 129)
11. It was a very strong fort built right at the mouth of the Vagothan river. There was a wall and as many as 27 bastions. Some of the fortifications are still in a fair shape.
12. The history of the fort is interesting. It was used as one on the main naval centres by the Maratha Navy. Khanoji Angre gave it the pride of place. Three major naval actions between the Marathas and the E.I.C. took place near it in 1717, 1749 and 1756 A.D. There was also a fight with the Dutch in 1724 A.D.

1. A. 20.
2. **Ambolgad.**
3. ---
4. Ratnagiri.
5. 16°39' Lat., 73°20' Long.
6. 170 deg., 37 kms. from Ratnagiri.
7. C.F.
8. F.P.
9. Vijaydurg Cluster.
10. NK but pre 1600 A.D.
11. It was a small fort built on the North bank of the Jaitapur creek close to the fort of Yeshwantgad. It was protected by the sea on three sides and by a wall and a ditch on the fourth. The fort is in ruins.

12. Historical data is not available. It might have been an outpost to Vijaydurg.

1. D. 11.
2. **Devgad.** (See Photogrtaph No. 26)
3. ---
4. Sindhudurg.
5. 16°22' Lat., 73°22' Long.
6. 342 deg., 35 kms, from Malwan.
7. C.F.
8. S.F./F.P.
9. Vijaydurg Cluster.
10. Dattajirao Angre in 1729. A.D.
11. It was a large fort with ramparts and bastions which have some-how survived in a dilapidated condition. There is a temple and a dargha inside. A lighthouse was built on it by the E.I.C.
12. Not much is known about the fort. Its size, location, fortifications, and the protected harbour which it controlled must have given it an important role. It remained with the Marathas till the end. An interesting fact is that the harbour was used by the Royal Navy as a submarine base during the IIInd World War.

1. K. 12.
2. **Kamte Kot.**
3. ---
4. Sindhudurg.
5. 16°16' Lat., 73°30' Long.
6. 07 deg., 28 kms. from Malwan.
7. C.F.
8. F.P.
9. Vijaydurg Cluster.
10. NK
11. A very small fort, nothing can now be made out except some indistinct plinths.
12. Historical data is not available. It might have served as an inland outpost of Devgad.

1. K. 40.
2. **Khare Patan.**
3. ---
4. Ratnagiri.
5. 16°32' Lat., 73°36' Long.
6. 17 deg., 60 kms. from Malwan.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Vijaydurg Cluster.
10. NK
11. It was a garrison fort for the town of Khare Patan on the Vaghothan river. There is no trace of the fort as its walls were dismantled by the E.I.C. to build a dock on the river.
12. Historical data is not available. It remained with the Marathas till the end.

1. R. 2.
2. **Rajapur.**
3. ---
4. Ratnagiri.
5. 16°38' Lat., 73°30' Long.
6. NN
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Vijaydurg Cluster.
10. NK but pre 1600 A.D.
11. This small fort was built next to Rajapur town on the banks of the Kodvali river. Today it is totally engulfed by the town and can hardly be recognised.
12. Rajapur was an ancient trading centre and invited raids. The Portuguese looted it in 1635 and Shivaji raided it in 1660 and again in 1670 A.D. The small fort could offer no resistance. It was from here that Prince Akbar, the rebel son of Aurangzeb sailed for Muscat after his abortive coup.

1. Y. 3.
2. **Yeshwantgad.**
3. ---

4. Ratnagiri.
5. 16°38' Lat., 73°20' Long.
6. 178 deg., 38 kms. from Ratnagiri.
7. C.F.
8. F.P.
9. Vijaydurg Cluster.
10. NK
11. It was a strong fort with high walls and seventeen bastions. The fort is in ruins but parts of the broken fortifications can still be seen.
12. Historical data is not available. Its size and strength indicate that it must have had some importance in that period.

CLUSTER NUMBER 25. THE RANGANA CLUSTER

The cluster has nineteen forts : Rangana, Ajare, Akeri, Avre, Bande, Bahiravgad, Bhudargad, Chandgad, Hanumantgad, Kalanidhigad, Mahadevgad, Manohargad, Manasantoshgad, Narayangad, Pargad, Phonda, Prachitgad, Sawantwadi and Shivgad. It is entirely made up of hill and land forts. See Fig. 93.

Strategically and tactically it was important for two reasons. First, the two main routes, Malwan-Belgaum and Kolhapur-Sawantwadi, passed through it. Second, it contained the threat from the South where the Portuguese had entrenched themselves, and the threat from the East where the Mughal forces were always trying to force their way to South Konkan. It was for this reason that Shivaji paid a lot of attention to the forts in this region.

1. R. 13.
2. **Rangana.** (See Fig. 94)
3. Prassidhagad.
4. Sindhudurg.
5. 16°04' Lat., 73°50' Long.
6. 12 deg., 20 kms. from Sawantwadi.
7. H.F., Ht., 790 mtrs., ASL.
8. M.F.
9. Rangana Cluster.
10. Bhoj Raja, 1121-50 A.D.

11. The fort was built on a spur and was quite large, about 145×600 mtrs. It had ramparts and bastions. The approach was from the north, the other three sides being very steep. The fortifications as well as the water tanks and buildings within it are in total ruins.
12. The fort was held by Bijapur till captured by Shivaji in 1659 and remained with the Marathas till 1818 A.D. It was one of Shivaji's favourite forts and he called it Prassidhgad. It figured in the war of succession between Tarabai and Shahu, who could not capture it.

1. A. 9.
2. **Ajare.**
3. ---
4. Kolhapur.
5. $16^{\circ}07'$ Lat., $74^{\circ}13'$ Long.
6. 235 deg., 20 kms. from Gadahinglaz.
7. L.F./H.
8. F.P.
9. Rangana Cluster.
10. NK but pre 1600 A.D.
11. The fort was built on a small hillock. No trace of it exists. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. A. 10.
2. **Akeri.**
3. ---
4. Sindhudurg.
5. $15^{\circ}55'$ Lat., $73^{\circ}46'$ Long.
6. 305 deg., 5 kms. from Sawantwadi.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Rangana Cluster.
10. Sawants of Wadi in ?
11. It was a small fort with walls and a gate. It was dismantled by the E.I.C. in 1845 A.D. Former physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. A. 35
2. **Avre.**
3. ---
4. Sindhudurg.
5. 15°45' Lat., 74°02' Long.
6. 130 deg., 28 kms. from Sawantwadi.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Rangana Cluster.
10. NK
11. It was a small stone and mud fort with one gate and a ditch all round. It was dismantled in 1845 A.D. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. B. 13.
2. **Bande.**
3. ---
4. Sindhudurg.
5. 15°50' Lat., 73°50' Long.
6. 155 deg., 10 kms. from Sawantwadi.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Rangana Cluster.
10. NK
11. The fort was built on a small rise and had walls and bastions and a gate in the south-east corner. There was a smaller gate in the west. The fort is in total ruins.
12. Bande was a well known township from ancient times and must have had some fortifications from early times. The fort of the 17th century may have been built on an earlier site. It was a garrison fort meant for the protection of the town.

1. B. 23.
2. **Bahiravgad.**
3. Bhairavgad.
4. Sindhudurg.
5. 16°14' Lat., 73°50' Long.

6. 63 deg., 40 kms. from Malwan.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Rangana Cluster.
10. NK
11. A very small fort near the village Digvale, there is now no trace of it. Physical description is not available.
12. The history of the fort is not available. It might have screened Rangana in the north.

1. B. 41
2. **Bhudargad.**
3. Bhujbal.
4. Kolhapur.
5. 16°15' Lat., 74°08' Long.
6. 190 deg., 50 kms. from Kolhapur.
7. H.F., Ht., 979 mtrs., ASL.
8. S.F.
9. Rangana Cluster.
10. Bijapur ? Pre 1600 A.D.
11. It was built on a high peak and though not very large, about 790 × 140 mtrs., it was well protected. More details are not available. It is now in ruins.
12. Historically it was known more for its temples of Kedar and Badrinath than for its military value. Shivaji captured it in 1667 A.D. It went to the Mughals in 1689 but was recaptured by the Marathas in 1700 A.D. and remained in their hands till the end. Its location and strength indicate that it might have been a secondary fort.

1. C. 5.
2. **Chandgad.**
3. ---
4. Kolhapur.
5. 15°55' Lat., 74°12' Long.
6. 87 deg., 40 kms. from Sawantwadi.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Rangana Cluster.

10. NK
11. Chandgad is not listed in SS or Kille but clearly shown in SI map, Sheet 47-I and hence included. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. H. 3.
2. **Hanumantgad.**
3. Manchigad, Bijarnigad.
4. Sindhudurg
5. 15°51' Lat., 73°58' Long.
6. 105 deg., 17 kms. from Sawantwadi.
7. H.F., Ht., 738 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Rangana Cluster.
10. NK but pre 1600 A.D.
11. The fort is listed in SS but not in Kille. It is marked on SI map, Sheet 48-E. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is also not available.

1. K. 7.
2. **Kalanidhigad.**
3. ---
4. Kolhapur.
5. 15°52' Lat., 74°01' Long.
6. 90 deg., 40 kms. from Sawantwadi.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Rangana Cluster.
10. NK
11. This was a very small fort close to Chandgad. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. M. 7.
2. **Mahadevgad.**
3. ---

4. Sindhudurg.
5. 15°57' Lat., 73°59' Long.
6. 72 deg., 20 kms. from Sawantwadi.
7. H.F., Ht., 708 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Rangana Cluster.
10. NK
11. The fort was built on a hill near Ambavali (Amboli in SI map, Sheet 48-E.) village. There is no indication of its former fortifications. Colonel Morgan of the E.I.C. described it in 1830 A.D. as not very strong.
12. Historical data is not available. However, it must have had some importance as it commanded the Parpoli Ghat.

1. M. 31.
2. **Manohargad.** (See Fig. 95)
3. ---
4. Sindhudurg.
5. 16°03' Lat., 73°58' Long.
6. 45 deg., 20 kms. from Sawantwadi.
7. H.F., Ht., 680 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Rangana Cluster.
10. Ancient, Pandavas (Legend)
11. It was a small, triangular fort with sides about 500 mtrs. long. Protection was afforded by scarps on almost all sides. A wall encircled the fort and there were three bastions at the three corners, as also in the middle of each side. The path to the top was not very difficult and there were a few steps. The fort is now in total ruins.
12. Very little is known of its history. It figured in the Gadkari rebellion and was captured by General Outram, the Political Agent at Kolhapur after a 2 months siege and a stiff fight. After the events of 1818 A.D. when fort after fort surrendered meekly, this was a refreshing example of Maratha valour.

1. M. 35.
2. **Manasantoshgad.**
3. ---

4. Sindhudurg.
5. 16°03' Lat., 73°58' Long.
6. 45 deg., 19 kms. from Sawantwadi.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Rangana Cluster.
10. NK
11. Situated on a spur across the valley from Manohargad, the fort had a difficult ascent made somewhat easy by a flight of steps. A peculiar feature was the pointed spurs. There is now no trace of the fortifications.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. N. 10.
2. **Narayangad.**
3. ---
4. Sindhudurg.
5. 16°02' Lat., 73°58' Long.
6. 45 deg., 19 kms. from Sawantwadi.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Rangana Cluster.
10. NK
11. The fort was built very close to the south of Manohargad. It is in ruins. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical information is not available.

1. P. 10.
2. **Pargad.**
3. ---
4. Kolhapur.
5. 15°58' Lat., 74°07' Long.
6. 80 deg., 32 kms. from Sawantwadi.
7. H.F., Ht., 608 mtrs. ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Rangana Cluster.
10. NK

11. The fort was built on a moderately high hill. The climb was rugged and steep, although there were a few rock cut steps. The fort was roughly triangular in shape. It had a wall and many bastions. Some ruins of the fortifications and water tanks are to be seen.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. P. 25.
2. **Phonda.**
3. ---
4. Sindhudurg.
5. 16°24' Lat., 73°51' Long.
6. 50 deg., 6.5 kms. from Phonda.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Rangana Cluster.
10. NK
11. The location is taken from the SI map, Sheet 47-H-151 (B-2) where it is shown as a fort and marked "fort in ruins". Physical description is not available.
12. It was captured by Shivaji (along with the town) in 1675 after mining, perhaps the only instance of Shivaji resorting to mining the wall of a fort. Its tactical importance lay in its ability to control the Phonda Pass.

1. P. 31.
2. **Prachitgad.**
3. ---
4. Sindhudurg.
5. 16°05' Lat., 73°57' Long.
6. 355 deg., 3.5 kms. from Manohargad.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Rangana Cluster.
10. NK
11. Out of the three Prachitgads shown in SS, the one in Sindhudurg district has been described merely "near Manohargad". The fort is not listed in the Gaz., or shown on the SI map, Sheet 47-H-16, C.2 or C.3.

There is no other clue such as the name of the base village. The above location is provisional. Physical description is not available.

12. Historical data is not available.

1. S. 18.
2. **Sawantwadi.**
3. ---
4. Sindhudurg.
5. 15°52' Lat., 73°47' Long.
6. NN
7. L.P.
8. F.P.
9. Rangana Cluster.
10. Wadi Sawants.
11. It was built on the side of the city lake. A small fort, 300 × 188 mtrs., its main gate faced north and another opened on the lake. It was fortified by wall and bastions. A small inner enclosure was also protected by wall and bastions, and may have been the *bale killa*. The fort is in a dilapidated condition and fast disappearing.
12. The fort's history is not known. It may have been just a garrison fort without any special military significance.

1. S. 27.
2. **Shivgad.**
3. ---
4. Kolhapur.
5. 16°24' Lat., 73°58' Long.
6. 45 deg., 19 kms. from Phonua.
7. H.F., Ht., 991 mtrs. ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Rangana Cluster.
10. NK.
11. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available. Its location would make it an outpost of Bavda.

CLUSTER NUMBER 26. THE SINDHUDURG CLUSTER

The cluster contains fourteen forts : Sindhudurg, Bhagwantgad, Bharatgad, Kudal, Nandos, Nivati, Padamgad, Rajkot, Ramgad, Sarjekot, Sidgad, Vengura, Vetalgad and Yeshwantgad, the cluster is predominantly coastal. All except two are coastal or land forts. See Fig. 96.

The importance of the cluster derives from fort Sindhudurg which was the principal naval base of Shivaji and remained one of the main bases under Angres and the Peshwas. The two forts of Bharatgad and Balwantgad were built by local chiefs for influencing a local conflict and thus carried no larger tactical value. Sarjekot, Rajkot, and Padamgad were too small to have any great influence. The two hill forts of Sidgad and Vetalgad, were merely outposts, Thus we see that the whole importance revolves round Sindhudurg. As the centre of conflict shifted north towards Bombay and its environs, the importance of Sindhudurg declined.

1. S. 34.
2. **Sindhudurg.** (See Fig. 97 and Photographs 27 and 28)
3. ---
4. Sindhudurg.
5. 16°02' Lat., 73°28' Long.
6. 270 deg., 1.5 kms., from Malwan.
7. F.P.
8. M.F.
9. Sindhudurg Cluster.
10. Shivaji in 1662-65. A.D.
11. A massive fortress on a rock jutting out of the sea, it is at once the most formidable and the best preserved of the coastal forts of Maharashtra. The ramparts were 9 to 10 mtrs. high. There were 40 bastions. The Shivaji temple is noteworthy because it is the only instance where Shivaji is shown without his beard. Today there are some twenty families staying inside the fort. Ruins abound.
12. The fort's history is linked with the rise and fall of the Maratha Navy. It remained with the Marathas (After Sambhaji the Angre. The Peshwas and the Kolhapur branch of the Bhonsales) till the end. Briefly captured by the E.I.C. in 1765, it went under their permanent control after 1818 A.D. Militarily it remained the centre of naval activity till the emphasis shifted to Bombay.

1. B. 21.
2. Bhagwantgad.
3. ---
4. Sindhudurg.
5. 16°08' Lat., 73°15' Long.
6. 15 deg., 13 kms. from Malwan.
7. C.F.
8. F.P.
9. Sindhudurg Cluster.
10. Bavdekars of Kolhapur in 1702 A.D.
11. It was a small fort of which nothing now remains.
12. It played a restricted local role in the fight between the Bavdekars and the Phond Sawants.

1. B. 31.
2. **Bharatgad.**
3. ---
4. Sindhudurg.
5. 16°08' Lat., 73°15' Long.
6. 15 deg., 13 kms. from Malwan.
7. C.F.
8. F.P.
9. Sindhudurg Cluster.
10. Sawants of Phond, 1702.
11. It was built on a very small hillock on the southern bank of the Malwan creek, opposite Baghwantgad. It had a 3.5 mtrs. high wall and ten bastions. There was a *bale killa* with its own fortifications. Inside there is a well which is reported to be 70 mtrs deep. On the whole it was a stronger and better fort than Bhagwantgad and today much better preserved.
12. It was built to counter the Bavdekars Bhagwantgad and played a local role only.

1. K. 52.
2. **Kudal.**
3. ---
4. Sindhudurg.

5. 16°01' Lat., 73°54' Long.
6. 102 deg., 22 kms. from Malwan.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Sindhudurg Cluster.
10. Bijapur, 16th century ?
11. It was a small fort built on the edge of Kudal town. It had a mud and stone wall and several bastions. There was a ditch outside the wall. There were three gates. The fort is in ruins.
12. The history of the fort is connected with Shivaji's capture of Kudal and the adjoining territory in 1670 A.D. It had, changed hands earlier, in 1663 and 1664 A.D. Its tactical value was limited.

1. N. 6.
2. **Nandos.**
3. ---
4. Sindhudurg.
6. 124 deg., 20 kms. from Malwan.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Sindhudurg Cluster.
10. Sawants of Wadi in ?
11. The fort was built near the village of Nandos. Details of its fortifications are not available. In a survey done in 1862 A.D. it is described as "in fairly good shape." It must have deteriorated very rapidly.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. N. 14.
2. **Nivati.**
3. ---
4. Sindhudurg.
5. 15°52' Lat., 73°35' Long.
6. 140 deg., 22 kms. from Malwan.
7. C.F.
8. F.P.
9. Sindhudurg Cluster.

10. Sawants ?
11. It was a small coastal fort. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available except that there is a mention of the fort in connection with the running feud between the Sawants and Bavdekars.

1. P. 2.
2. **Padamgad.**
3. Padmagad, Padmadurg.
4. Sindhudurg.
5. 16°02' Lat., 73°28' Long.
6. 175 deg., 1 km. from Malwan.
7. I.F.
8. C.P.
9. Sindhudurg Cluster.
10. Shivaji in 1662.
11. It was a small fort built on an island midway between Sindhudurg and Malwan. Its ruined fortifications can just be made out.
12. Shivaji built the fort presumably because tactically it would have been unwise to leave an island so close to the main fort unprotected. It was also used as a ship building yard. This statement has been repeated by many authors but appears to be a little strange. The waters around Sindhudurg and Padmagad are very shallow, and so full of submerged rocks that only a local boatman who knows all the dangers takes a zig zag route to reach the fort. Ship building would require deep, rock free, waters.

1. R. 7.
2. **Rajkot.**
3. ---
4. Sindhudurg.
5. 16°02' Lat., 73°28' Long.
6. Close to Malwan town, now within it.
7. C.F.
8. F.P.
9. Sindhudurg Cluster.
10. Shivaji in ?

11. It was a small fort on the coast within Malwan town area. It had a stone wall and three bastions. It is in ruins.
12. Historical data is linked with Sindhudurg.

1. R. 9.
2. **Ramgad.**
3. ---
4. Sindhudurg.
5. 16°15' Lat., 73°37' Long.
6. 35 deg., 26 kms. from Malwan.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Sindhudurg Cluster
10. NK
11. It was a fairly strong fort. Its walls had, at many places, a greater thickness than height. There were fifteen bastions and a gate facing west. Inside, steps took one to the top. Some fortifications can still be seen.
12. Historical data is not available. At best it could have covered the north-east flank of Malwan.

1. S. 14.
2. **Sarjekot**
3. ---
4. Sindhudurg.
5. 16°02' Lat., 73°28' Long.
6. 355 deg., 3 kms. from Malwan.
7. C.F.
8. F.P.
9. Sindhudurg Cluster
10. Angres in ?
11. It was a very small post, probably meant to be an outpost, close to the sea. Nothing can be made out now of its former fortifications.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. S. 31.
2. **Sidgad.**
3. ---
4. Sindhudurg.

5. 16°08' Lat., 73°37' Long.
6. 55 deg., 16 kms. from Malwan
7. H.F.
8. C.P.
9. Sindhudurg Cluster.
10. NK
11. A small fort, physical description is not available.
12. Historical information is not available.

1. V. 12.
2. **Vengurla.**
3. ---
4. Sindhudurg.
5. 15°50' Lat., 73°37' Long.
6. 250 deg., 20 kms. from Sawantwadi.
7. C.F.
8. F.P.
9. Sindhudurg Cluster.
10. NK but pre 1600 A.D.
11. It was a strong square fort with high wall. More information is not available.
12. Shivaji captured it in 1664 A.D. and after Sambhaji's death the Khem Sawants took it over. It was briefly with the Mughals in 1705 A.D., and was ceded to the E.I.C. by the Rani of Sawantwadi in 1812 A.D.

1. V. 14.
2. **Vetalgad.**
3. ---
4. Sindhudurg.
5. 16°04' Lat., 73°36' Long.
6. 85 deg., 16 kms., from Malwan.
7. H.F.
8. C.P.
9. Sindhudurg Cluster.
10. NK
11. It was a fair sized fort built on a small hill near the village of Pednur. It has a few ruins now but nothing on which a description can be based.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. Y. 4.
2. **Yeshwantgad.**
3. Reddi.
4. Sindhudurg.
5. 15°15' Lat., 73°38' Long.
6. 160 deg., 12.5 kms., from Vengurla.
7. C.F.
8. F.P.
9. Sindhudurg Cluster.
10. Shivaji in 1665.
11. It was a strong fort with walls 5.5 mtrs high with a parapet at places. It is said that a swamp protected it on the landward side. The main gate was in the north-east corner. There were many bastions. Inside, there was a *bale killa* with its own wall and bastions. The fort is now in ruins.
12. The fort was meant to be a naval station and to check the encroachments by the Portuguese both by land and sea. It is somewhat surprising that the Portuguese made no attempt to capture it.

THE NORTHERN LINE OF FORTS.

The term Northern Line (abbreviated to NL) has been given to the northern boundary of present day Maharashtra and the chain of forts situated along, or close to, the line. This chain of forts has special significance. The present northern boundary corresponds, quite closely, with the frontiers of the various kingdoms of the Deccan. Thus, the Yadav and the Bahamani Kingdoms had their northern frontiers resting on the Tapi, or a little beyond, quite close to the present inter-State line. The Nizamshai of Ahmadnagar or the Imadshahi of Berar also had their frontiers quite close by. And later, even when the Marathas expanded northwards and the States of Gwalior, Indore, Baroda and Nagpur were established beyond the Narmada, the core of the Maratha country, directly under the Peshwa, ran up to the Tapi.

It is, therefore, not surprising that there should be a chain of forts along the Tapi. But what is surprising is the fact that none of these forts were able to check the Muslim invasions from the North, the Khaljis, the Tughlaks or the Mughals.

The line contains 34 forts, running from west to east, they are Toranmal, Dhadgaum, Akhrani, Ghanora, Tarkhed, Thalner, Dondwada, Khandargad, Lasur, Chaugaum, Chopda, Vaishakhgad, Yaval, Pal, Raver, Savda, Varangaum, Bodvad, Chandgad, Malkapur, Balapur, Akola,

Adgaum, Amner, Dharni, Naranala, Gawilgad, Achalpur, Jallakheda, Narkher, Bhimgad, Ambagad, Chandpur and Kamtha. Fig. 98 and 99.

1. T. 15.
2. **Toranmal.**
3. ---
4. Dhule.
5. 21°52' Lat., 74°29' Long.
6. 22 deg., 60 kms. from Nandurbar.
7. H.F., Ht. 1461 mtrs., ASL
8. F.P.
9. NL.
10. Ancient.
11. Toranmal is not shown as a fort in SS or on the SI map. I have included it for two reasons. Firstly, there is some slight trace of fortification above the Nagarjun Temple. Secondly, Toranmal was the capital of the Mandu Kings and it is inconceivable that there should be no fort. Moreover a fort is shown on SI map. Sheet 46-K-5 very close to Toranmal, and this could be the fort that is being discussed.
12. Historical data is not available. From the military point of view it must have had some importance as a control post for the number of crossings across the ranges between the Narmada and the Tapi which ran close to Toranmal.

1. D. 15.
2. **Dhadgaum.**
3. ---
4. Dhule.
5. 21°50' Lat., 74°12' Long.
6. 355 deg., 35 kms. from Taloda.
7. H.F., Ht., 1017 mtrs., ASL.
8. S.F.
9. NL
10. Bhil Kings or Chiefs, pre 1400 A.D.
11. The fort is in ruins and the present condition gives no idea of its past fortifications. Physical description is not given in the Gaz.
12. There is a record of the fort having been repaired by the E.I.C. in 1862 A.D. otherwise historical data is not available. Many routes from West

Nimar to Baruch pass through this area and the fort must have been tactically important.

1. A. 11.
2. **Akhrani.**
3. ---
4. Dhule.
5. 21°40' Lat., 74°14' Long.
6. 358 deg., 11 kms. kms. from Taloda.
7. H.F.
8. F.P./S.F.
9. NL
10. NK but pre 1600 A.D.
11. The fort is not listed in the Gaz. or in SS but is very clearly shown on SI map with a noting, "fort in ruins." Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. G. 7.
2. **Ghanora.**
3. ---
4. Dhule.
5. 21°28' Lat., 74°43' Long.
6. 310 deg., 20 kms. from Shirpur.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. NL
10. NK
11. Ghanora is mentioned in historical narratives but not in SS or the Gaz. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available. Its tactical value is difficult to assess.

1. T. 10.
2. **Tarkhed.**
3. ---
4. Dhule.

5. 21°24' Lat., 74°38' Long.
6. 83 deg., 42 kms. from Nandurbar.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. NL
10. NK
11. Tarkhed has not been included in SS, but has been shown on the SI map and there are references of its military importance.
12. Historical data is not available. Located on the banks of the Tapi, downstream from Thalner, and south of Ghanora, it must have had some value.

1. T. 11.
2. **Thalner.**
3. ---
4. Dhule.
5. 21°16' Lat., 24°57' Long.
6. 137 deg., 12.5 kms. from Shirpur.
7. L.F.
8. M.F.
9. NL
10. Gavli Kings, about 1128 A.D.
11. The fort was built on a small rise on the banks of the Tapi. Wall and ramparts with bastions gave it all round protection. The only entrance faced south, but once inside, five successive gates had to be crossed. The fort is in total ruins and I was told by a village elder that the material from the fort was used by many to build their own houses and there was no attempt made to stop them.
12. The full history of Thalner ought to be available but is not given in the Gaz. It is believed that Ptolemy's Tiatore is the same as the later day Thalner. It was the capital of the Faruqui kings in 1370 A.D. At one time or the other it was with the King of Gujarat, the Mughals, the Marathas (Holkars) and finally the E.I.C. The military importance started declining since the time of the Mughal occupation who made Galna and Laling as their main bases. It was handed over to the E.I.C. by the Holkar according to the Treaty of Mandesar, in 1818 A.D.

1. D. 24.
2. **Dondwada.**
3. ---
4. Dhule.
5. $21^{\circ}31'$ Lat., $74^{\circ}58'$ Long.
6. 15 deg., 25 kms. from Shirpur.
7. H.F., Ht., 810 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. NL
10. NK
11. Although not listed in the Gaz. It is shown on SI map, Sheet 46-K.
Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. K. 37.
2. **Khandargad.**
3. ---
4. Jalgaum.
5. $21^{\circ}22'$ Lat., $75^{\circ}21'$ Long.
6. 318 deg., 16.5 kms. from Chopda.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. NL
10. Gavli Kings in ?
11. The fort is in utter ruins and only part of one wall and a tower can be seen.
12. Historical data is not available. Its military importance is not clear.

1. L. 3.
2. **Lasur.**
3. ---
4. Jalgaum.
5. $21^{\circ}30'$ Lat., $75^{\circ}12'$ Long.
6. 209 deg., 9.5 kms. from Chopda.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. NL

10. Nimbalkars?
11. It was a small fort adjoining the village. There is now no trace.
12. It was the stronghold of the Thok family, and when captured by Nimbalkar, the former sought British aid. The E.I.C. advanced the sum of Rs. 60,000- to get it back, but then retained the actual control.

1. C. 14.
2. **Chaugaum.**
3. ---
4. Jalgaum.
5. 21°18' Lat., 75°13' Long.
6. 310 deg., 10 kms. from Chopda.
7. L.F./H.
8. F.P.
9. NL
10. Gavli Kings, pre 1400 A.D.
11. The Chaugaum fort was built quite close to Lasur and is often taken to be same fort. It was square, with sides about 150 mtrs long. There is a huge stone inscription lying on its face and has not been deciphered. The gate, which was in the south face, was so well concealed that one did not see it till a sudden turn in the path brought one in front of it. The fort is in ruins but a flight of steps and water cistern and some plinths can be made out.
12. Historical data is not available. There is a record of King Ishwarsen having lived here but no details are given. It appears that at one time it had some importance and a large open space in front of the fort, today called the *bada bazar* was used for quartering of troops.

1. C. 19.
2. **Chopda.**
3. Mustafabad.
4. Jalgaum.
5. 21°15' Lat., 75°17' Long.
6. 310 degs., 40 kms. from Jalgaum.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. N.L.
10. Gavli Kings, pre 1400 A.D.

11. The fort was supposed to be near the old settlement, now the town of Chopda. I could find no trace of the fort, but old timers aver that at one time there was a fort, or at least part of the fortifications could be made out.
12. Historical records are not available. There is a note that the town and the fort was sacked by Shivaji in 1676 A.D. The Chopda group of forts, Chopda, Lasur and Chaugaum, lay astride the route from Khandesh to Amalner and must have had some importance at one time.

1. V. 3.
2. **Vaishakhgad.**
3. ---
4. Jalgaum.
5. 21°20' Lat., 75°21' Long.
6. 26 deg., 12 kms. from Chopda.
7. H.F., Ht., 426 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. NL
10. Gavli Kings in ?
11. The fort is not included in the Gaz. but the local population is in no doubt about its former existence. The base village was Virvade and today there is very little to see.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. Y. 1.
2. **Yaval.**
3. ---
4. Jalgaum.
5. 21°08' Lat., 74°43' Long.
6. 40 deg., 14 kms. from Jalgaum RS
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. NL
10. Appajirao Nimbalkar in ?
11. The fort was built to protect the town. Some portions of the wall, bastions and a gate can be seen in a ruined condition. It was a square,

70 × 75 metres, mud and stone fort. The samadhi of Ahir Raja is close by.

12. Historical data is not available. Its tactical importance, if any, is not clear.

1. P. 3.
2. **Pal.**
3. ---
4. Jalgaum.
5. 21°22' Lat., 75°49' Long.
6. 310 deg., 20 kms. from Raver.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. NL
10. NK
11. The fort is not listed in the Gaz. but clearly shown on SI map, Sheet 46-O-12. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. R. 20.
2. **Raver.**
3. Rasalpur.
4. Jalgaum.
5. 21°15' Lat., 76°01' Long.
6. 30 deg., 35 kms. from Bhusaval RS.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. NL
10. NK
11. It was a small, 100 × 90 mtrs. - fort which is now in total ruins and its former physical description cannot be made out.
12. Historical data is not available. This is surprising. The fort stands right in the middle of the famous Bhusaval gap through which the main route between the North and the South passed. The northern end was 'guarded' by the massive Asirgad, but towards the southern end we find this fort of almost no consequence. This anomaly needs further investigation.

1. S. 17.
2. **Savda.**
3. ---
4. Jalgaum.
5. $21^{\circ}08'$ Lat., $75^{\circ}52'$ Long.
6. 45 deg., 15 kms. from Bhusaval RS
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. NL
10. NK
11. The fort was, presumably, built to protect the village. There is now no trace. I have gone to Savda (also Raver) but could find no clue as to the former fort. The local population, however, are equally firm and say that at one time there was a fort.
12. Along with Raver, Savda was in a position to control passage through the Bhusaval Gap. But there is no record of their having done so.

1. V. 5.
2. **Varangaum.** (See Photograph No 28)
3. ---
4. Jalgaum.
5. $21^{\circ}01'$ Lat., $75^{\circ}52'$ Long.
6. 116 deg., 15 kms. from Bhusaval RS.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. NL
10. The Deshmukh of Savda, in 1700 ?
11. At one time it was a fairly large, square, mud and stone fort, built on the banks of the river Bhogawati. Now only part of the wall and two bastions can be seen. There is a ruined gate, and a school is being run inside the fort. Outside the fort, on the river side, there is the famous temple of Bhavani which is supposed to be very ancient.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. B. 46.
2. **Bodvad.**
3. ---
4. Jalgaum.

5. 20°50' Lat., 75°59' Long.
6. 260 deg., 20 kms. from Malkapur.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. NL
10. NK
11. Nothing remains of this fort except a broken down wall at a few places and two gates. It is now in the middle of the town. The main gate is all plastered over by posters. It is ironic that it should be named Shivaji Gate when it has been degraded so much.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. C. 6.
2. **Chandgad.**
3. ---
4. Jalgaum.
5. 21°05' Lat., 75°22' Long.
6. 85. deg., 26 kms. from Edalabad.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. NL
10. NK
11. The fort was built on a small hillock. It is located on the present border of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available. It was one of the forts of the old Khandesh and Berar areas and may have had some importance.

1. M. 18.
2. **Malkapur.** (See Photograph No 29)
3. ---
4. Buldhana.
5. 20°53' Lat., 76°14' Long.
6. NN
7. L.F.
8. S.F.
9. NL

10. Muhamad Malik Khan in ?
11. Once it was a large fort but now the entire area has been occupied by slum dwellers. The wall, bastions, and gate are in ruins, and fast disappearing.
12. Historical data is not available but considering its size, strength and location it must have been a fort of some consequence.

1. B. 9.
2. **Balapur.** (See Fig. 100 and Photograph No. 30)
3. ---
4. Akola.
5. 20°40' Lat., 76°46' Long.
6. 257 deg., 26 kms. from Akola.
7. L.F.
8. M.F.
9. NL
10. Ismail Khan, the First Nawab of Ellichpur, 1757 A.D. ?
11. It was a massive fort, perhaps the strongest in Khandesh, Berar regions. It had high ramparts and many bastions. There was an outer gate on the peripheral wall and a strong inner gate in the main rampart. This gate led to a courtyard and a third gate was set at right angles to the first. The courtyard was surrounded by a rampart. The idea was that should an enemy succeed in breaching the first gate, they would be caught within the courtyard and attacked from the ramparts. The fort is in a tolerably good condition and today houses some government offices. The approach sometimes gets flooded as it is built close to the Milas river.
12. The military value of the fort is a little difficult to determine accurately. By the time it was built Maratha expansion had gone well beyond the Narmada, and the conflict with the Nizam, who had the fort for sometime, had been satisfactorily concluded. It is more than likely that the year given is wrong and the fort is of much earlier origin.

1. A. 13.
2. **Akola.** (See Photograph No. 31)
3. Asagad.
4. Akola.

5. 20°44' Lat., 76°59' Long.
6. NN
7. L.F.
8. S.F.
9. NL
10. Asadkhan, in 1697 A.D.
11. The small fort of Akola was built along the river bank and had high ramparts and bastions. There was a palace inside, parts of which can still be seen. The other fortifications have started crumbling and the main area of the fort has been converted into a public garden.
12. Akola is not a very 'old' town, coming into prominence only after Aurangzeb became the Emperor and diverted his full attention towards the Deccan. However, the fort, built just ten years before his death, could not have played any major role as the field of battle with the Marathas was far to the west.

1. A. 5.
2. **Adgaum.**
3. Amagaum, Argaon.
4. Akola.
5. 21°07' Lat., 76°54' Long.
6. 290 deg., 15 kms. from Akot.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. NL
10. Bhonsales of Nagpur in ?
11. There are today two Argaums as I found out, the *chota* and the *motha* Argaum. The fort was in what is today the smaller Adgaum. Only a solitary bastion was pointed out to me by the villagers as the sole mark of the former fort.
12. Historical data is not available, except that it lends its name to the famous battle of Argaon in 1803 A.D. where General Wellesley defeated the vastly superior forces of the Bhonsales. The Treaty of Devgaon concluded after the battle made the E.I.C. the major power in Berar.

1. A. 21.
2. **Amner.**
3. Jilpi.

4. Amaravati.
5. $21^{\circ}32'$ Lat., $76^{\circ}47'$ Long.
6. 330 deg., 55 kms. from Akot.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. NL
10. NK
11. Amner was built on a slight rise, overlooking the waters of the Tapi and Garga. It was a compact, quadrangular fort with a high wall and bastion at each corner. The only gate was in the north-east corner, overlooking the Tapi. The fort was almost totally destroyed by the E.I.C. in 1858 A.D.
12. Historical data is not available. It was reputed to be Tantya Tope's hide out for sometime. It must have had some importance in the Malaghat area, especially as it controlled a well established ford across the Tapi.

1. D. 20.
2. **Dharni.**
3. ---
4. Amaravati.
5. $21^{\circ}35'$ Lat., $76^{\circ}52'$ Long.
6. 340 deg., 57 kms. from Akot.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. NL
10. NK
11. The fort was located close to Amner, upstream on the Tapi. It is often grouped with Amner under the name Jilpi. However, it was built on a small hillock and appears to have had a separate identity.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. N. 8.
2. **Narnala.** (See Fig. 101 and Photograph No 32)
3. Shahanur.
4. Amaravati.
5. $21^{\circ}14'$ Lat., $76^{\circ}59'$ Long.
6. 335 deg., 18 kms. from Akota.

7. H.F., Ht., 912 mtrs. ASL.
8. M.F.
9. NL
10. Nayendrapura. descendents of the Pandavas. (legend) The Bahamani, 1425 A.D.
11. The fort was built on a short range having three hill features, Jaffarabad in the North, Narnala in the centre, and Taligad in the South. They are grouped together under fort-Narnala-because Jaffarabad and Taligad did not have distinct fortifications of their own and were not independently defensible.
Today, the road from Akot takes one nearly to the top. About three fourths of the distance up the climb the first gate was located. It was protected by a curtain wall 9 mtrs, high. There were two more gates, one of them very intricately carved. On the top there are ruins of many buildings and one or two of them are still in use. There were many very large water tanks, some idea of which can be had from the photograph. A huge gun can be seen, but it was so heavy that it could neither be elevated or traversed and so was of limited use to the defenders.
12. Ferishta mentions it as one of the main forts of the Bahamani Kingdom. During Akbar's reign, Narnala had the status of a subha. Parsoji Bhonsale captured it in 1701 and it remained with the Marathas till it fell to the E.I.C. in 1803 A.D.

1. G. 6.
2. **Gawilgad.** (See Fig. 102 and Photograph No 33)
3. ---
4. Amaravati.
5. 21°22' Lat., 77°19' Long.
6. 305 deg., 21 kms. from Achalpur.
7. H.F., Ht., 1103 mtrs. ASL.
8. M.F.
9. NL
10. Bahamani Sultan Ahmad Shah, in 1425-26 A.D.
11. The fort had two levels, the outer and slightly lower, and the upper, and higher fort. Both areas were well protected by walls, ramparts and bastions, there was an outer gate which led to the top through three more gates placed one behind the other. The fortifications are fast crumbling and most of the buildings are in ruins.

12. Gawilgad had a long history. It passed through many hands, after the Bahamani Kingdom split up. It was first with the Imadshahi in 1488, with the Nizamshahi in 1574, with the Mughals in 1600, the Marathas in 1744 before it finally fell to the E.I.C. in 1803 A.D. The strategic importance of Gawilgad lay in the fact that it was in a position to control the Malaghat region. The fact that it did nothing to check Alauddin Khalji's advance is another matter.

1. A. 3.
2. **Achalpur.**
3. Ellichpur.
4. Amaravati.
5. 21°15' Lat., 77°30' Long.
6. 323 deg., 45 kms. from Amaravati.
7. L.F.
8. S.F.
9. NL
10. NK pre 1300 A.D.
11. It was a very large square fort with walls and bastions. The main gateway was massive. There was also an outer wall at some distance away and today the ground between the two is populated.
12. Achalpur was earlier known as Ellichpur and was the capital of the rulers of Berar. The tactical value of the fort was very limited as the major role was played by Narnala and Gawilgad.

1. J. 3.
2. **Jallalkheda.**
3. ---
4. Wardha.
5. 21°22' Lat., 78°23' Long.
6. 305 deg., 25 kms. from Katol.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. NL
10. NK
11. The fort was built on the banks of the river Wardha on the border of the present Amaravati, Wardha and Nagpur districts. There were two forts opposite each other on either bank. It was a fine fort built on

a rock with walls going down to the river. The gate was on the fourth side, cut out of rock and protected by batons. The fort is in total ruin.

12. Historical data is not available. It may have been of some value to the Bhonsales as an outpost on their western side.

1. N. 11.
2. **Narkher.**
3. ---
4. Nagpur.
5. 21°28' Lat., 78°31' Long.
6. 355 deg., 21 kms. from Katol.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. NL
10. NK
11. There is only one line reference in the Gaz. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. B. 35.
2. **Bhimgad.**
3. ---
4. Nagpur.
5. 21°28' Lat., 79°08' Long.
6. 10 deg., 30 kms. from Nagpur.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. NL
10. NK
11. The fort was built on a small hillock on the banks of the river Penar. Its walls were made up of rocks placed one on top of the other. The fort is in ruins.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. A. 18.
2. **Ambagad.**
3. ---

4. Bhandara.
5. $21^{\circ}27'$ Lat., $79^{\circ}37'$ Long.
6. 01 deg. (North). 30 kms. from Bhandara.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. NL
10. Gond Raja Bakht Buland, in 1700
11. The fort was built on a hill and was very difficult to reach. The base village of Ambagad could be reached from Jamb or from Tumsar. The whole area was very thickly forested and even today the local villagers were not prepared to guide me right up to the end. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available. There is, however, one item recorded that the fort was captured by Major Wilson of the E.I.C. after an abortive rebellion of Appa Saheb.

1. C. 7.
2. **Chandpur.**
3. ---
4. Bhandara.
5. $21^{\circ}22'$ Lat., $79^{\circ}45'$ Long.
6. 25 deg., 30 kms from Bhandara.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. NL
10. NK
11. It is mentioned as an old fort with no trace now remaining. The area has been famous for its custard apple trees from medieval times. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available. It might have screened Bhandara towards the north.

1. K. 13.
2. **Kamtha.**
3. ---
4. Bhandara.
5. $21^{\circ}31'$ Lat., $80^{\circ}16'$ Long.
6. 65 deg., 13 kms from Gondia.

7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. NL
10. NK
11. The physical description of the fort is not available.
12. Historical data is not available except that Appa Saheb took shelter in the fort for some time. This is the easternmost fort of the northern Line.

THE EASTERN LINE OF FORTS

The eastern Line (abbreviated EL) has eight forts :Kajagad, Chinchgad, Partabgad, Tipagad, Wairagad, Surajagad, Bhamragad and Sironcha. See Fig. 103.

The forts lie east of the Wainganga river along a broken range of hills running almost north-south. These hills separate the easternmost districts of Maharashtra, (Bhandara and Gadchiroli), from Madhya Pradesh. Towards the south the hills are known as the Bastar Hills.

The forts were mostly located in remote areas, thickly forested and with a large amount of tribal population. Even today vast tracts are heavily forested with very few tracks and even fewer roads. The area is in the news these days due to Naxalite activities. In fact. I was stopped twice by police patrols and 'advised' not to go further and was turned back a little beyond Murangaum while on the way to Tipagad.

1. K. 4.
2. **Kajagad.**
3. Lokhandi Killa.
4. Bhandara.
5. 21°07' Lat., 80°17' Long.
6. 90 deg., 70 kms. from Bhandara.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. EL
10. NK
11. The fort was known as Lokhandi Killa because its doors were covered by steel plates. It is not listed in the Gaz. but shown on the map, and mentioned in a few historical narratives. Physical description is not available.

12. Historical details are not available. It could not have been more than an outpost.

1. C. 17.
2. **Chinchgad.**
3. ---
4. Bhandara.
5. 19°53' Lat., 80°22' Long.
6. 77 deg., 37 kms. from Arjuni Moregaum.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. EL
10. NK
11. A small fort, located next to the village of the same name, its physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available. It took its name from the fact that there were a very large number of tamarind-*chinch*-trees within and without the fort. It must have acted as an outpost to Pauni and other forts lying to its west.

1. P. 15.
2. **Partabgad.**
3. ---
4. Bhandara.
5. 20°47' Lat., 80°06' Long.
6. 108 deg., 8 kms. from Arjuni Moregaum.
7. H.F., Ht., 559 mtrs., ASL
8. F.P.
9. EL
10. Raja Bakht Buland.
11. The physical description of the fort is not available.
12. Historical data is not available. However, it is well known for the *darga* of Khwaja Osman Baruni which is close by. There are also seven beautiful water tanks locally known as the Seven Sisters.

1. T. 13.
2. **Tipagad.**
3. ---
4. Gadchiroli.
5. 20°29' Lat., 80°32' Long.
6. 43 deg., 33.75 kms. from Dhanora.
7. H.F., Ht. 661 mtrs., ASL
8. S.F.
9. EL
10. Gond King Puran Raj.
11. The fort was built deep in the hilly tract, covered with thick forests. The approach is from the small township of Murungaum. The fort is surrounded by a number of other peaks ranging from 439 to 538 mtrs in height. The fort had massive ramparts and bastions. The main feature of the fort is a fabulous lake on top which is the source of the Tipagarhi river. The lake has many legends woven around it. The fort is fast crumbling to total ruin.
12. Accurate historical data is not available. However, its location, size and fortifications make it more than likely that at one time it was an important fort of the Gond Kings. A short history of Chandrapur District (which included the present Gadchiroli District before bifurcation) called *Chandrapurcha Itihas* by Rajurkar also does not give adequately authentic details of the fort.

1. W. 4.
2. **Wairagad.**
3. ---
4. Gadchiroli.
5. 20°28' Lat., 80°06' Long.
6. 112 deg., 10 kms. from Armori.
7. L.F.
8. M.F.
9. EL
10. Ancient. King Ballal Shah in 780 A.D.
11. The fort was built a little North of the confluence of the rivers Khobragarhi and Salti. It was a large stone fortress with a rampart 4.5 to 6.5 mtrs. high, a number of bastions, triple gates and a ditch around the rampart. The tomb of king Durgasen is just outside the fort walls. The fort is now going to ruins.

12. The history of the fort is a long chronicle of its capture, its destruction and its rebuilding. Built by Ballal Shah in 780 A.D. it had a peaceful existence till 1471 when it was destroyed by the Bahamani general Yusuf Adil Khan. Re-built, it saw many wars and was with Babji Ballal in 1572 A.D. It was once again destroyed by the Holkars in 1751 and built yet again till the Gond dynasty ended a few years later Captured by the E.I.C. in 1818 A.D. it was partly dismantled a few years later. During its hey day it was without doubt the main fort of the area.

1. S. 47.
2. **Surjagad.**
3. ---
4. Gadchiroli.
5. 19°35' Lat., 80°22' Long.
6. 145 deg., 78 kms. from Gadchiroli.
7. H.F., Ht., 386 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. EL
10. Raja Suraj in 1700 A.D.
11. The approach to the fort was between two rock faces, up a cleft, and over a series of natural steps. There were two gates. The approach and the top was defended by breastwork. It is now in ruins.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. B. 26.
2. **Bhamragad.**
3. ---
4. Gadchiroli.
5. 19°24' Lat., 80°31' Long.
6. 90 deg., 54 kms. from Ahiri.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. EL
10. NK
11. It is the easternmost fort of present day Maharashtra. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available, but it must have served as an outpost to the Gond kings at Chandrapur.

1. S. 38.
2. **Sironcha.**
3. ---
4. Gadchiroli.
5. 18°50' Lat., 79°59' Long.
6. 180 deg., 145 kms. from Gadachiroli.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. EL
10. Haider Wali Shah in 1698 A.D.
11. Sironcha once had a fort. The physical description of the original fort is not available. After its occupation by the E.I.C., the fort was dismantled. The local people were encouraged to take away the material used to build the fort for their own use, free of cost, and it made the task of dismantling the fort so much quicker and easier for the E.I.C.
12. Historical data is not available. Today the fort is in the extreme southern tip of Maharashtra, but in medieval days the whole area was under the firm control of the Kutabshahi, and later the Mughals and thus it is not likely that it could have played any major role.

THE SOUTHERN LINE OF FORTS

The forts along the southern border of Maharashtra are thirteen in number, and running east to west are : Chandrapur, Ballapur, Rajapur, Manikgad, Kayar, Kelapur, Mahur, Nanded, Udgir, Naladurg, Solapur, Mangalvedha, and Miraj. The last named becomes the link fort between the southern and western lines. See Figs. 104 and 105.

The number of forts in this line is not as large as in the northern line. However, there are many famous forts. The present boundary approximated with the boundary between the Nizamshahi and Adilshahi kingdoms and saw much fighting.

1. C. 9.
2. **Chandrapur.** See Fig. 106.
3. Chanda, Gonddurg.
4. Chandrapur.
5. 19°56' Lat., 79°32' Long.

6. NN
7. L.F.
8. M.F.
9. SL
10. Ballal Kings, pre 1300 A.D.
11. The fort was extensive, with high walls and many bastions. It is said that the fort took fifty years to build. It had four gates facing the four cardinal points. In essence the fort was used more often as a fortified residence for the kings rather than for any warlike purpose. Many original buildings are no more but the walls still exist and part of the fort is being used as a jail.
12. The history of Chandrapur is that of the Gonds, tribal chiefs who rose to become kings. Chandrapur fell to the Mughals only after a stiff fight. Its importance was not only as the hub of the Gond kingdom but even later because it controlled most of the routes, North-South or East-West, along and across the river Wardha.

1. B. 11.
2. **Ballalpur.** (See Fig. 107 and Photograph No. 34)
3. ---
4. Chandrapur.
5. 19°52' Lat., 79°22' Long.
6. 56 deg., 12 kms. from Chandrapur.
7. L.F.
8. S.F./F.P.
9. SL
10. Gond King Ballashah during 1437 -62 A.D.
11. The fort was built on the banks of the river Wardha. It was square in shape with a wall and bastions. There were two gates set in an angle to each other. There was also a small postern on the river side. There were buildings and underground chambers which are now in total ruins. In fact the whole inside area is now a flat open space much used by the local children to play. It is said that from a passage next to the river, a secret tunnel ran up to the Chandrapur fort but this has never been verified.
12. The history of Ballalpur is closely linked with that of Chandrapur. It must have served the purpose of covering Chandrapur.

1. R. 8
2. **Rajura.**
3. ---
4. Chandrapur.
5. 19°46' Lat., 79°18' Long.
6. 160 degs., 20 kms. from Chandrapur.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. E.L.
10. Bastar Kings in ?
11. The fort is mentioned in the Gaz. as located across the river Wardha from Ballapur. There is not even a line in description. I could not see any trace of a fort across the river from Ballapur, but according to the locals, there was once a fort a little further downstream known as *Jamunabaicha Killa*.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. M. 28.
2. **Manikgad.** (See Fig. 108 and Photograph No. 35)
3. Gadchandur.
4. Chandrapur.
5. 19°40' Lat., 79°07' Long.
6. 210 deg., 35 kms. from Chandrapur.
7. H.F., Ht., 507 mtrs., ASL
8. S.F./M.F.
9. SL
10. Naga Kings, 9th century.
11. The fort was built on a hill which had a depression in the centre. It was very strongly fortified by walls, ramparts and bastions. Three tower like structures are also seen. There was a massive gateway and numerous tanks and buildings were on the top. Today the fort is in utter ruins and a sanctuary for wild animals. A jeepable road does take one a little below the top. About half way up and to one side is the famous temple of Vishnu where devotees still go in large numbers.
12. Historical data is not available. Its strength, size and location would indicate that at one time it must have played an important role and where treasure could be kept and shelter taken in difficult times.

1. K. 32.
2. **Kayar.**
3. ---
4. Yewatmal.
5. 18°54' Lat., 78°55' Long.
6. 195 deg., 16.25 kms. from Wani.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. SL
10. NK
11. It was reputed to be a large fort with strong fortifications but very little trace of it is left. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available. Shardul Singh, the local representative of the paper Nagpur Lokmat told me at Kelapur, that when the fort of Kayar was being pulled down a lot of gold was found buried and the news was published by the paper.

1. K. 34.
2. **Kelapur.**
3. ---
4. Yewatmal.
5. 19°59' Lat., 78°33' Long.
6. Three kms. South of Padhekawada, along the highway.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. SL
10. NK
11. The fort was built a little South of the town a little away from the Nagpur-Hyderabad National Highway. It was a stone fort and legend had it that there was a secret tunnel connecting it to a temple of a local deity which can be seen a couple of kilometres away. The fort is in ruins.
12. Historical data is not available. Peshwa Bajirao II is said to have taken shelter in the fort during his last flight.

1. M. 17.
2. **Mahur.** (See Fig. 109 and Photograph No. 36)
3. ---
4. Nanded.

5. 19°52' Lat., 77°56' Long.
6. 320 deg., 40 kms. from Kinwat RS.
7. L.F./H.
8. M.F.
9. SL
10. NK but pre 1500 A.D.
11. The fort was built on top of two adjoining hills the whole ridge being protected by walls, ramparts and bastions. Walls also traversed the slope connecting the lower and upper levels. The main gate was massive and was known as *Hathi Darwaza*. Only some portions of the fort are in tolerable shape.
12. Mahur has a long history going back to pre-Bahamani days. However, once the Adilshahi dynasty was firmly established Mahur did not figure in any major historical event. It went to the Mughals after the liquidation of the dynasty by Aurangzeb in 1680 A.D.

1. N.4.
2. Nanded.
3. ---
4. Nanded.
5. 19°50' Lat., 77°22' Long.
6. MN
7. L.F.
8. S.F.
9. SL
10. Ancient.
11. It was a square fort on the banks of the Godavari and had high walls and bastions. Today, nothing remains. There is a water works built by the Nizam, a small garden and a small saluting gun.
12. Nanded is a very ancient town but no data about its fort is available.

1. U. 2.
2. **Udgir.** (See Fig. 110 and Photograph No. 37)
3. ---
4. Latur.
5. 18°23' Lat., 77°07' Long.
6. 90 deg., 60 kms. from Latur.
7. L.F.

8. M.F.
9. SL
10. Pre 1500 A.D.
11. It was a very strong fort protected by an outer rampart with many bastions, and an inner wall protecting the palace. It is in a fair state of preservation.
12. Udgir has a long history. It was one of the strongest of Bijapur forts. Shahajahan occupied it for a brief period in 1636 A.D. Later it went to the Nizam. The treaty of Udgir between the Nizam and the Marathas in 1760 is well known. It always had considerable military value.

1. N. 2.
2. **Naladurg.** (See Fig. 111 and Photograph No. 38)
3. ---
4. Usmanabad.
5. 17°50' Lat., 76°17' Long.
6. 145 deg., 46 kms. from Usmanabad.
7. L.F./H.
8. M.F.
9. SL
10. Pre 1300 A.D.
11. The fort was built on an isolated hill on the banks of the river Bori. The hill had a steep rock face on three sides, but even so the whole fort was surrounded by a ditch. There are numerous buildings and tanks, many in ruins. The water falling down the roof of a pavilion built along one of the tanks, is a pretty sight, especially in the rains. Naladurg was one of the few forts of the period which had gun emplacements on the bastions, designed to allow traversing of the guns.
12. The fort has a long history. It was one of the main strongholds of the Chalukyas covering their old capital of Kalyani. It was with the Bahamanis during 1351-1480 A.D. and then passed to Bijapur. It was annexed by Aurangzeb in 1680 A.D. It was a key military post for all power who held it.

1. S. 40.
2. **Solapur.** (See Fig. 112 and Photograph No. 39)
3. ---
4. Solapur.
5. 17°41' Lat., 75°53' Long.

6. MN
7. L.F.
8. M.F.
9. SL
10. Bahamanis, 1435 - 37, Ali Adilshah 1656 A.D.
11. The fort was built on a slightly raised ground on the West bank of a lake known as the Sidheshwar Lake. It has an irregular oblong shape and was well fortified by a double row, ramparts and wall. A moat 30 mtrs wide surrounded the fort on three sides. The main gate was called the *Revni Darwaza* and had inner gates at right angles to it. There were numerous buildings, a well, tanks and a temple. The original buildings, except for the temple and a few stables, are no more. The whole of the interior has been converted into a public park.
12. Solapur has a long history. The fort was important militarily, first as an outpost and later as a full fledged fort under the Adilshahi. In 1668 A.D. it was briefly occupied by the Marathas and later passed to the Nizam.

1. M. 26.
2. **Mangalvedha.**
3. ---
4. Solapur.
5. 17°30' Lat., 75°25' Long.
6. 250 deg., 50 kms. from Solapur.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. SL
10. Bidar Kings ?
11. It was a large rectangular fort with the sides being 378.5, 365, 334.5, and 279 mtrs. There was a high rampart with seven bastions. The largest, known as *Mardan Burz* was 14.28 mtrs. high 15.7 mtrs. in circumference. The inner citadel or *bale killa* was 70 mtrs. square with its own wall. The fortifications were in good shape till a few years ago but reports now say that the fort is fast going to seed.
12. Surprisingly, in spite of its strength and apparent importance, nothing very much is known about the fort. After the dissolution of the Bidarshahi, it went to Bijapur, to Aurangzeb in 1680 and to the Marathas in 1716 A.D.

1. M. 42.
2. **Miraj.**
3. Murtazabad.
4. Sangli.
5. 16°50' Lat., 74°37' Long.
6. NN
7. L.F.
8. S.F.
9. SL
10. Pre 1100 A.D. ?, Asadkhan in 1481 A.D.
11. It was a large square fort, with high wall and bastions. It was surrounded by a moat which is no more, and the fort itself is totally enclosed by the town.
12. Miraj is one of the most historic relics of the Sangli State. Its name is derived from King Mairinga of the Silahar dynasty and the original fortifications can be safely dated to 300 to 900 A.D. It was held successively by the Yadavs, the Bahamanis, and the Adilshahis. It came into Maratha hands only in the post Aurangzeb period. Miraj was intimately linked with the Patwardhan family and their rise to power. From the military point of view it was a gateway both to the South and to the West.

THE WESTERN LINE OF FORTS

The Western Line of Forts are, from South to North : Mahipalgad, Gandharvagad, Rajgoli, Samangad, Gadhinglaj, Ganeshdurg, Sangli, Borgaum, Machindragad, Kole, Karad, Vasantgad, Sadashivgad, Masur, Bhushangad, Aundh, Mahimangad, Malavdi, Varugad, Santoshgad, Wathar, Wadgaum Nimbalkar, Loni Bhapkar, Ambi Kund (Khurd), Puarandar, Wajragad, Mallhargad, Daulatmangal, Chakan, Kauthe, Jamgaum, Ahmadnagar, Banas Hivre, Deogiri, Antur, Parola and Amalner. See Figs. 113, 114.

The forts of this line are perhaps the most important if taken as a whole. They were to play a vital role in military operations during the period 1600-1800 A.D. Always keeping the threat perception in mind, they were equally important to both the Marathas and the Mughals or Adilshahi kings.

1. M. 13
2. **Mahipalgad.**
3. ---
4. Kolhapur.
5. 15°52' Lat., 74°22' Long.
6. 90 deg., 60 kms. from Sawantwadi.
7. L.F./H.
8. F.P.
9. WL
10. NK
11. The fort is right on the present border of Maharashtra and Karnataka. It is closer to belagum than Sawantwadi. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available. It must have been an outpost on the eastern border of Shivaji's kingdom.

1. G. 4.
2. **Gandharvagad.**
3. ---
4. Kolhapur.
5. 15°50' Lat., 74°16' Long.
6. 92 deg., 48 kms from Sawantwadi.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. WL
10. NK
11. The fort has been listed in Gaz., and SS. The physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available. It might have been given the role of guarding the eastern appraoches to Swantwadi.

1. R. 6.
2. **Rajgoli.**
3. ---
4. Kolhapur.
5. 16°01' Lat., 74°24' Long.
6. 113 deg., 26 kms. from Ajare.

7. L.F./H.
8. F.P.
9. WL
10. NK
11. The fort is not listed in the Gaz. or SS but is clearly shown in SI map, Sheet 37 - L - 8. and hence included. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. S. 8.
2. **Samangad.**
3. ---
4. Kolhapur.
5. 16°21' Lat., 74°23' Long.
6. 170 deg., 6 kms. from Gadahinglaj.
7. H.F., Ht., 790 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. WL
10. NK
11. It was a small, but well protected, fort. There are a few ruins of a wall and bastion. Greater physical description is not available.
12. The fort was captured by Shivaji in 1676 A.D. and remained in Maratha hands till 1818 A.D. when E.I.C. took over and dismantled it. The military importance of the fort was that it protected the 'soft underbelly' of the Maratha kingdom up to the time of Shahu, after which its value declined.

1. G. 1.
2. **Gadahinglaj.**
3. ---
4. Kolhapur.
5. 16°14' Lat., 74°22' Long.
6. 164 deg., 52 kms from Kolhapur.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. WL
10. Ghorpade of Kapshi, 1700 A.D.

11. The fort was built on the edge of the village but is now incorporated in the expanding township, physical data is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. G. 5.
2. **Ganeshdurg.**
3. ---
4. Sangli.
5. 16°52' Lat., 74°35' Long.
6. Sangli Town.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. WL
10. NK but pre 1600 A.D.
11. The fort was built for the protection of the town. It had high, thick ramparts, with a parapet loop-holed for musketry. Bastions, roughly octagonal in shape, stood at each angle of the rampart. The fort was surrounded by a moat. There were three gates, the main one facing North. Most of the fortifications are no more.
12. Historical data about the fort is not available. Besides being a garrison fort for Sangli, no tactical role can now be attributed to it.

1. S. 10.
2. **Sangli.**
3. ---
4. Sangli
5. 16°52' Lat., 74°34' Long.
6. NN
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. WL
10. Bijapur Kings ?
11. The fort was large with high ramparts and bastions. Sangli may also be termed a fortified town, with Ganeshdurg as its fort. However, since it had its own fortifications which the E.I.C. dismantled in 1850 A.D., it has been taken as a separate fort.

12. Sangli town has a very long history, but specific description and role of the fort from the military point of view is not given.

1. B. 49.
2. **Borgaum.**
3. ---
4. Sangli.
5. 17°06' Lat., 74°20' Long.
6. 326 deg., 37 kms., from Sangli.
7. H.F., Ht., 817 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. WL
10. NK
11. Borgaum is not shown in the Gaz. as a fort, However, it is so marked on the SI map and also there are a few stray references to it in historical narratives and so the existence of the fort is beyond doubt. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available. It might have been a screen to Sangli.

1. M. 2.
2. **Machindragad.**
3. ---
4. Sangli.
5. 17°09' Lat., 74°16' Long.
6. 142 deg., 17.5 kms. from Karad.
7. L.F/H.
8. F.P.
9. WL
10. Shivaji in 1676.
11. It was built on an isolated hill. The approach was from the north and was quite steep. The last portion of the climb was by steps. The fort is close to the Karad - Tasgaum highway and the temple of Machindranath still attracts a large number of devotees.
12. It was the southern most of the line of forts built by Shivaji to protect his eastern frontier. It appears that the Mughals never took it. The E.I.C. took over control in 1818 A.D. It was with Bapu Gokhale at that time.

1. K. 48.
2. **Kole.**
3. Kale in SI map.
4. Satara.
5. 17°15' Lat., 74°14' Long.
6. 255 deg., 12.5 kms. from Karad.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. WL
10. NK
11. The fort was built near the village of Kole on the northern bank of the river Vang. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available. It could not have been anything more than an outpost.

1. K. 24.
2. **Karad.** (See Fig. 115)
3. ---
4. Satara.
5. 17°16' Lat., 74°09' Long.
6. NN
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. WL
10. Bijapur kings in 1557 - 88 A.D.
11. The fort was built on the southern bank at the confluence of the rivers Koyana and Krishna. It was a small fort with walls and bastions, about twelve in number. The most notable feature is the deep well which nearly overhangs on the river.
12. Karad is a very old town and the fort was, no doubt, a garrison fort for the town. Karad can be called the eastern gateway of the Maratha kingdom. The fort could not have resisted any attack by the mughals who could always field a vastly superior force.

1. V. 9.
2. **Vasantgad.**
3. Khalid-i-Fateh.

4. Satara.
5. $17^{\circ}20'$ Lat., $74^{\circ}06'$ Long.
6. 300 deg., 9.5 kms. from Karad.
7. H.F., Ht., 884 mtrs., ASL.
8. S.F.
9. WL
10. Pre Bahamani.
11. It was a strong, fairly large fort built on an outlying spur of the Sahyadri. The approach was from the base village Talbid in the north. Today the fort is in ruins.
12. Historical data is not available. It was located between two main routes, Karad - Satara and Karad - Chiplun and must have had some tactical value. It is thus no wonder that it passed through several hands, The Bahamanis, the Adilshahis, Shivaji, Aurangzeb, back to the Marathas and ultimately to the E.I.C.

1. S. 1.
2. **Sadashivgad.** (See Fig. 116)
3. ---
4. Satara.
5. $17^{\circ}19'$ Lat., $74^{\circ}15'$ Long.
6. 35 deg., 5 kms. from Karad.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. WL
10. Shivaji in 1673 A.D.
11. It was built on a high hill and defended by walls and bastions. The gate faced North. The fort was dismantled by the E.I.C. in 1862 and now there is no trace of it. The Mahadev temple survives and an annual fair is held.
12. Historical data is not available. It must have served as an outpost along the eastern frontier of Shivaji's kingdom.

1. M. 37.
2. **Masur.**
3. ---
4. Satara.
5. $17^{\circ}22'$ Lat., $74^{\circ}09'$ Long.

6. North, 12 kms. from Karad.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. WL
10. Pant Pratinidhi of Satara, in ?
11. The fort was built near the village of Masur. It had 6 mtrs high walls and bastions. Nothing remains of the fort and today it is only remembered as a *gadhi*.
12. Historical data is not available. It appears that the Pant Pratinidhi, Srinivas, was kept a prisoner here, but was set free due to the exertions of his mistress, Tai Telin.

1. B. 43.
2. **Bhushangad.**
3. ---
4. Satara.
5. 17°27' Lat., 74°24' Long.
6. 190 deg., 15 kms. from Vaduj.
7. L.F./H.
8. F.P.
9. WL
10. Shivaji in 1676.
11. It was built on a small hill surrounded by plains, and was not very strong. The approach was from the base village Nimgad and after an easy climb led to the gate in the north-east corner. The fort is in ruins.
12. Historical data is not available. It was one of the chain of forts built by Shivaji to protect his eastern frontiers.

1. A. 32.
2. **Aundh.**
3. ---
4. Satara.
5. 17°32' Lat., 74°19' Long.
6. 230 deg., 2 kms. from Aundh.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. WL

10. Rajas of Aundh, in ?
11. The fort was built close to the town with which it has now merged. its former physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. M. 10.
2. **Mahimangad.** (See Fig. 117)
3. ---
4. Satara.
5. 17°42' Lat., 74°28' Long.
6. 276 deg., 6 kms. from Dahivadi.
7. L.F./H.
8. F.P.
9. WL
10. Shivaji in 1673 A.D.
11. It was built North of the Ukirdi village, close to the present Koregaum-Mhasvad road. It was a long, narrow fort, about 400 × 100 mtrs. in dimension. There was a rampart and four bastions. The approach was easy and there were steps towards the end. The fortifications, though in ruins, can still be made out.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. M. 20.
2. **Malavdi.** (See Fig. 118)
3. ---
4. Satara.
5. 17°45' Lat., 74°28' Long.
6. 305 deg., 12.5 kms. from Dahiwadi.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. WL
10. Pre-1600 A.D.
11. The fort was built next to the village Malavdi. It was more or less rectangular in shape with wall and bastions. It has now merged with the township and much of the fortifications have disappeared.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. V. 7.
2. **Varugad.** (See Fig. 119)
3. ---
4. Satara.
5. 17°51' Lat., 74°26' Long.
6. 175 deg., 15 kms. from Phaltan.
7. H.F., Ht., 1050 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P./S.F
9. WL
10. Shivaji in 1673 A.D.
11. It was a strong fort, of a fair size, and with considerable fortifications. There were two gates, facing north and south. The approach was from the base village of Jadhavwadi. The fort is in ruins but the temple of Bhairavnath still attracts devotees.
12. Historical data is not available. It might have been used by Shivaji as a secondary fort on his eastern frontier.

1. S. 12.
2. **Santoshgad.** (See Fig. 120)
3. Tathvade, Thatoli.
4. Satara.
5. 17°50' Lat., 74°19' Long.
6. 220 deg., 17 kms. from Phaltan.
7. H.F., Ht., 9.4 mtrs., ASL.
8. S.F.
9. WL
10. Pre-1600 A.D.
11. It was built on the same range as Varugad and was a large, well fortified fort. The main gate faced east. The *bale killa* at the top had its own fortifications. The shrine of Sadhu Thatav attracts many devotees. The fort is in ruins.
12. Some historical facts are available. Balaji Naik Nimbalkar, an officer in the Bijapur army was in command in 1665 A.D. Captured by Shivaji in 1670, by Aurangzeb in 1689 and re-taken by the Marathas in about 1703, it remained in Maratha hands till taken over by the E.I.C. The famous rebel, Umaji naik, took shelter here for some time.

1. W. 6.
2. **Wathar.**
3. ---
4. Satara
5. 17°57' Lat., 74°22' Long.
6. 245 deg., 7.5 kms. from Phaltan.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. WL
10. Nimbalkars of Phaltan in ?
11. The fort is in ruins and its physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available. It might have had only a local importance.

1. W. 2.
2. **Wadgaum Nimbalkar.**
3. ---
4. Pune.
5. 18°08' Lat., 74°21' Long.
6. 183 deg., 22.5 kms. from Supe.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. WL
10. NK
11. The fort is not listed in Gaz. or SS but is shown on the SI map, Sheet 47-J-8, B-2. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. L. 6.
2. **Loni Bhapkar.**
3. ---
4. Pune.
5. 18°13' Lat., 74°23' Long.
6. 10 deg., 10.5 kms. from Wadgaum Nimbalkar.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. WL

10. NK
11. The fort is not listed in the Gaz. or SS, but is shown on SI map, Sheet 47-J-8, B.1. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. A. 19.
2. **Ambi Khurd.**
3. ---
4. Pune.
5. 18°18' Lat., 74°17' Long.
6. 250 deg., 10.5 kms. from Supe.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. WL
10. NK
11. The fort is not listed in the Gaz. or SS. It is shown on SI map, sheet 47-J-7, A.3. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. P. 33
2. **Purandar.** (See Fig. 121 and Photograph No. 40)
3. ---
4. Pune.
5. 18°16' Lat., 73°58' Long.
6. 155 deg., 31 kms. from Pune.
7. H.F., Ht., 1374 mtrs., ASL.
8. M.F.
9. WL
10. Ancient. Renovated and strengthened in 15th and 16th centuries.
11. It was a strong fort built at the end of a range which runs south-eastwards from Singhgad. A double line of fortifications protected the two levels, the upper one containing the *bale killa*. The ramparts did not have a parapet all along. natural protection was afforded by scarps. The main gate, the *Dilli Darwaza* and part of the fortification can still be seen. The temple of Kedareshwar still draws visitors. There was a N.C.C. Training unit at the top, but now there is only a small post and an Officers' Mess.

12. Purandar has a long history and has always played an important role in the political and military affairs of the period. Its history is well documented and need not be repeated here. From the tactical point of view, it provided good cover to the core fort of Rajgad, but was too exposed to offer a prolonged siege.

1. W. 5.
2. **Wajragad.** (See Fig. 121 and Photograph No. 41)
3. Rudramal.
4. Pune.
5. 18°16' Lat., 73°56' Long.
6. 155 deg., 31 kms. from Pune.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. WL
10. 16th century.
11. It was a satellite fort of Purandar and had a wall and bastions. There are ancient caves on the hill side. The fort is in ruins.
12. The history of the fort is linked with that of Purandar. It posed more danger to Purandar than being of assistance to it. As Ramchandra Pant Amatya so very ably put it, a fort must be built on a hill feature which is not dominated by another peak close to it, and if such a peak exists it should be either blown up or else fortified. Wajragad falls under this category, and its capture was always the first step for any attack on the main fort.

1. M. 22.
2. **Mallhargad.** (See Photograph No. 42)
3. Soneri.
4. Pune.
5. 18°25' Lat., 74°03' Long.
6. 130 deg., 22 kms. from Pune.
7. H.F., Ht., 77 mtrs ^ SL.
8. F.P.
9. WL
10. Sardar Panse in 1775 A.D.
11. A comparatively small but strong fort, it had two rows of fortifications, the outer wall being about 4.25 mtrs. and the inner

being about 2.5 mtrs. high. The outer wall took the triangular contour of the hill, while the inner wall was square in shape. Parts of the wall and the temples of Khandoba and Mahadev survive.

12. Historical data is meagre. It will be recalled that Shivaji had forbidden the construction of any fortified structure by his generals or nobles. But this policy was abandoned by the Peshwas. Sardar Panse might have built this fort more for personal needs than military needs as by that time (1775 A.D.) the military value of the forts had declined.

1. D. 6.
2. **Daulatmangal.**
3. Bhuleshwar.
4. Pune.
5. 18°28' Lat., 74°08' Long.
6. 109 deg., 30 kms. from Pune.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. WL
10. Khawas Khan, Bijapur Wazir, in?
11. The fort was built on the same hill where stood the ancient temple of Bhuleshwar. It may even be said that the fortifications surrounded the temple of Bhuleshwar. A broken down gate and part of a wall can be seen.
12. Not much of data is available. Khawas Khan had appointed Murari Pandit in charge of the fort with instructions to keep an eye on Shivaji and Pune. At best it may have also acted as an outpost to Purandar, presuming, of course, that the two forts were held by the same power.

1. C. 1.
2. **Chakan.** (See Photograph No. 43)
3. Vikramgad, Sangramgad, Islamabad.
4. Pune.
5. 18°45' Lat., 73°52' Long
6. North, 25 kms. from Pune.
7. L.F.
8. S.F.
9. WL
10. Pre 1300 A.D. Extensively renovated by Malik-ul-Tuzar, 1435 A.D.

11. The fort was more or less square and protected by an outer and an inner wall. It was surrounded by a moat. There were two gates and a rough road runs through it now. The fort is in ruins and exceedingly dirty as it is used as an open air toilet by the local population.
12. Chakan has a long history and passed through many hands. It was given in *jagir* to Maloji Bhonsale in 1595 A.D. The most notable event is its seige by Shaistekhan in 1662. He could capture it only after an intense, three months fighting. From the military point of view it was a secondary fort between Nasik and Pune, and it always provided a base from which a westward attack could be launched.

1. K. 31.
2. Kauthe.
3. ---
4. Pune.
5. 18°54' Lat., 74°10' Long.
6. 335 deg., 17 kms. from Ranjangaum.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. WL
10. NK
11. The fort is not listed in SS or the Gaz. However, it is clearly marked as a fort in SI map, Sheet 47-J-1, C.2., and hence included. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. J. 5.
2. Jamgaum.
3. ---
4. Ahmadnagar.
5. 19°04' Lat., 74°31' Long.
6. 262 deg., 22.5 kms. from Ahmadnagar.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. WL
10. NK
11. The fort is not listed in the Gaz. or SS but is shown on SI map, Sheet 47-I-12. Physical description is not available.

12. Historical data is not available. It may have served as an outpost to Ahmadnagar.

1. A. 8.
2. **Ahmadnagar.** (See Fig. 122)
3. ---
4. Ahmadnagar.
5. 19°05' Lat., 74°45' Long.
6. NN
7. L.F.
8. M.F.
9. WL
10. Malik Ahmad in 1490 A.D.
11. The fort was built on the banks of the river Sina, but a little away from the stream. It was oval in shape and very strongly fortified with high ramparts, bastions and gates. It was surrounded by a moat and was one of the few forts which had a distinct glacis beyond the moat. There were many buildings inside and the fort is in a fair state of preservation. It is today being used by an Army establishment.
12. The fort has a long history and saw many notable events take place, from the imprisonment of Chandbibi to that of Jawahar Lal Nehru. It was with the Nizamshahi forces till it was captured by Akbar in 1600 A.D. Ahmadnagar town was plundered by Shivaji in 1657 and 1665 A.D., but no attempt to take the fort was made. It remained with the Mughals till Aurangzeb's death. It was then held by many powers, the Nizam in 1728 and the Scindia in 1797. It was captured by General Wellesley in 1803.
Ahmadnagar was a main fort and played an important part in the political and military affairs of 17th and 18th centuries Deccan.

1. B. 27.
2. **Bhana Hivra.**
3. ---
4. Ahmadnagar.
5. 19°19' Lat., 74°59' Long.
6. 28 deg., 50 kms. from Ahmadnagar.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. WL

10. NK
11. The fort is not listed in SS or the Gaz. but shown on SI map (Hivre on the map). Physical description is not available
12. Historical data is not available. However, its position half way between Admadnagar and Daulatabad on the main route may have made it an important outpost.

1. D. 8.
2. **Deogiri.**
3. Daulatabad.
4. Aurangabad.
5. 19°57' Lat., 75°14' Long.
6. 295 deg., 10 kms. from Aurangabad.
7. L.F./H.
8. M.F.
9. WL
10. Ancient. Bhil Kings?, Yadav rulers, early 14th century.
11. One of the strongest forts of the Deccan, if not of India, it had four distinct lines of fortifications. It also had a natural scarp. The fort is well documented and the description need not be repeated here. Mention, however, may be made about its most novel feature, the covered and long passage through which alone an entry to the fort could be effected. This passage could be made exceedingly difficult to traverse by the defenders.
12. Deogiri is of great antiquity. Most probably the Rashtrakutas and the Satvahanas may have had a hand in its construction. It came into prominence under the Yadav dynasty who made it their capital. It was with the capture of this fort that the Muslim penetration into the Deccan began under Ala-ud-din Khalji. Since then, Deogiri, whose name was changed to Daultabad, was an important civil and military centre for all powers, down to Aurangzeb. Militarily, it was the first large and strong fort South of the Burhanpur gap, and opened the doors of the Deccan.

1. A. 26.
2. **Antur.**
3. ---

4. Aurangabad.
5. 20°25' Lat., 75°15' Long.
6. 350 deg., 80 kms. from Aurangabad.
7. L.F./H.
8. F.P.
9. WL
10. Maratha Chiefs, middle of 15th century.
11. The fort was nearly square and built on a low spur of a ridge. It had scarps on three sides and a wall protected it on the fourth. An inscription records that the lower wall and bastion was built by Malik Ambar in 1590 A.D. The fort is in ruins.
12. Historical data is not available. It may have had some importance as an outpost as it guarded the Gantala Pass north of Kannad.

1. P. 13.
2. **Parola.** (See Fig. 123)
3. ---
4. Jalgaum.
5. 20°52' Lat., 75°03' Long.
6. 105 deg., 20 kms. from Amalner.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. WL
10. Hari Sadashiv Damodar, in 1727.
11. The fort was about 150 mtrs. long and about 130 mtrs. wide. It had a high outer wall surrounded by a moat, and an inner rampart. Both had bastions. There were two gates. Today the buildings inside are in ruins and a few families are staying in cottages. The broken wall of the innermost citadel or *bale killa* still stands as a mute testimony of the days gone by. The space between the outer and inner wall is exceedingly dirty as it is being used as an open air latrine.
12. Not much of its history is known. Its name is associated with the Rani of Jhansi, and as the seat of the powerful Maratha Chief, Bhai Jhansikar. It is doubtful if it had any great tactical value.

1. A. 17.
2. **Amalner.**
3. ---

4. Jalgaum.
5. 21°03' Lat., 75°03' Long.
6. NN
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. W.L. Links with the Northern Line.
10. NK but pre-1500 A.D.
11. It was a very small fort, about 35 metres, square, surrounded on three sides by the town and on the fourth by the Bori river. Its walls have long disappeared.
12. Historical data is not available, except that it was held for the Peshwa by a local chief and was garrisoned by Arabs who often defied authority. The fort had limited tactical value.

THE FORTS OF THE INTERIOR

Under this heading are described the forts which do not fall under the clusters or the four lines, *i.e.*, the forts located in the interior of the various districts. The forts have been taken up district-wise and alphabetically. The word "box" appears in Column No. 9. The district name is given in Column 4 as usual.

There are sixty such forts. It is interesting to note that in certain districts all, or a very large number, of forts are either in clusters or lines, and none in the box. There are no "box" forts in many districts such as Nasik, Raigad, Satara, Sindhudurg, etc. On the other hand the districts in the interior such as Wardha, or Parbhani have mostly forts located in the interior and not in any line.

AHMADNAGAR DISTRICT

1. E.1.
2. **Ekadara.**
3. ---
4. Ahmadnagar.
5. 19°22' Lat., 74°02' Long.
6. 290 deg., 20 kms. from Sangamner.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Box

10. NK
11. It was built on the edge of a spur in a range which runs East from Igatpuri. The physical description of the fort is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. S.41.
2. **Songad.**
3. ---
4. Ahmadnagar.
5. 19°37' Lat., 74°07' Long.
6. 315 deg., 10 kms. from Sangamner.
7. L.F./H.
8. F.P.
9. BOX.
10. NK
11. The fort was built on a small hillock. Its physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. P.22.
2. **Pedagaum.**
3. Bahadurgad.
4. Ahmadnagar.
5. 18°31' Lat., 74°40' Long.
6. 66 deg., 14 kms from Dhaund.
7. L.F.
8. S.P.
9. Box.
10. Khan Jehan in 1672 A.D.
11. The fort was also known as Bahadurgad and was built on the northern bank of the river Bhima. It was a square fort with wall and bastions. The fort is in ruins.
12. Historical data is not available except that it was associated with Aurangzeb's campaign in the Deccan. It was from Bahadurgad to Koregaum and Tulapur that the Mughal camp was spread for a considerable time. it was here that the Emperor received the news of the capture of Sambhaji. Militarily it may be classified as a secondary

fort only because for a long time it remained one of the main logistic base for the Mughal army.

1. W.3.
2. **Wadgaum Madhe.**
3. ---
4. Ahmadnagar.
5. 18°37' Lat., 74°37' Long.
6. 275 deg., 9.5 kms. from Shrigonda.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Box.
10. NK
11. The fort is not listed in the Gaz. or SS but clearly shown on SI map. Sheet 47-J-10, B.2, and hence included. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. K.39.
2. **Khorda.**
3. ---
4. Ahmadnagar.
5. 18°37' Lat., 75°29' Long.
6. 120 deg., 20 kms. from Jamkhed.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Box.
10. Nimbalkars in 1745 A.D.
11. The fort was built in the South-East part of the village. Square in shape, it had massive walls, 9 mtrs. high and was surrounded by a ditch. A large outer gate led to an inner Gate set at right angles to it. The fort is now in ruins.
12. Historical data is not available except that its name is associated with the Battle of Khorda, where the Marathas crushed the Nizam's power and established their supremacy once and for all. Leaving this even, the fort does not appear to have had any military significance.

AKOLA DISTRICT

1. M.46.
2. **Murtazapur.**
3. ---
4. Akola.
5. 21°14' Lat., 76°59' Long.
6. 90 deg., 40 kms. from Akola.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Box.
10. NK but pre-1600 A.D.
11. The fort is stated to have been a strong one but has long since disappeared. A locality in the city known as *Kille Masjid* is shown as the original location of the fort. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. S.25.
2. **Shirpur.**
3. ---
4. Akola.
5. 20°12' Lat., 76°56' Long.
6. 287 deg., 20 kms. from Washim.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Box.
10. NK
11. It was once a strong fort but nothing now remains. A broken down gadhi like structure can be seen but it is doubtful if it is the remains of the original fort.
12. Historical data is not available.

AMARAVATI DISTRICT

1. B.1.
2. **Badanera.**
3. ---
4. Amaravati.
5. 21°50' Lat., 77°43' Long.
6. 220 deg., 10 kms. from Amaravati.

7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Box.
10. NK
11. At one time Badanera fort had a distinct existence from the town which was also fortified. Passing through Badanera, I could not find any distinction, and in any case the walls had almost disappeared. Physical description of the fort is not available.
12. Historical data is not available. Located on the main west-east highway, it may have had some tactical value.

AURANGABAD DISTRICT.

1. A.1.
2. **Abhasgad.** (See Fig. 124)
3. ---
4. Aurangabad.
5. 20°34' Lat., 75°35' Long.
6. 280 deg., 18 kms. from Ajanta.
7. H.F.
8. S.F./F.P.
9. Box.
10. Ancient.
11. There is only a line about the fort in the Gaz. From the SI map, Sheet 46-P-15, it is clear that it was a very large fort, perhaps the largest in Maharashtra. Built on a steep hill, it had extensive ramparts and bastions. There was also a citadel.
12. Historical data is not available. Tactically it belonged to a group of forts guarding the northern approaches to Deogiri and Aurangabad.

1. A.30.
2. **Assaye.** (See Fig. 125)
3. ---
4. Aurangabad.
5. 20°14' Lat., 75°52' Long.
6. 55 deg., 70 kms. from Aurangabad.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.

9. Box.
10. NK
11. Assays was a small mud fort. Such small mud forts, more often than not *gadhis* are dotted all over Maharashtra. They had rudimentary fortifications and local influence only. Fig. 125 shows that the region had four such structures. They are now on the verge of extinction.
12. Assaye has been included because it was close to this fort that General Wellesley showed his military genius and won a famous battle known to history as the Battle of Assaye. The vastly superior army of the Scindia was defeated and routed on 23 September, 1803.

1. B.8.
2. **Baitulwadi.** (See Fig. 126)
3. Vetulwadi.
4. Aurangabad.
5. 20°33' Lat., 75°37' Long.
6. 200 deg., 16 kms. from Ajanta.
7. H.F.
8. S.F./F.P.
9. Box.
10. Ancient.
11. Baitulwadi is given only two lines in the Gaz. when it was, along with Abhasgad, the main fort guarding the passage to Deogiri. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available. This is surprising because, with Abhasgad, these were the only two forts of any consequence south of the Burhanpur gap. On the other hand, the tactical necessity of having two strong forts within a few kilometres of each other cannot be justified. It may have been built to satisfy the principle of not having an adjoining hill to the main fort unfortified.

1. D.27.
2. **Dudmal.**
3. ---
4. Aurangabad.
5. 20°24' Lat., 75°17' Long.
6. 20 deg., 7 kms. from Nagpur.
7. H.F., Ht., 827 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.

9. Box.
10. Maratha Chiefs, pre-1600 A.D.
11. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. P.24.
2. **Phardapur.**
3. ---
4. Aurangabad.
5. 20°35' Lat., 75°42' Long.
6. 335 deg., 6.5 kms. from Ajanta.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Box.
10. NK
11. The fort is not included in SS or listed in the Gaz. However, the SI map, Sheet 46-p-10, C.3., shows it as a fort in ruins. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. S.3.
2. **Saitonda.**
3. Sutanda.
4. Aurangabad.
5. 20°28' Lat., 75°21' Long.
6. 44 deg., 32 kms. from Kannad.
7. L.F./H.
8. F.P.
9. Box.
10. NK but pre-1600 A.D.
11. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available. It was one of the group of forts around Ajanta which guarded the northern approaches after Bhusaval.

1. S.22.
2. **Shahabad.**
3. Bhimgad.
4. Aurangabad.

5. 19°21' Lat., 75°38' Long.
6. 73 deg., 100 kms. from Ahmadnagar.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Box.
10. Shahaji in --- ?
11. The fort was built on the right bank of the Godavari opposite Rakshasbhuvan. It was built on an earlier site known as Bhimgad. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available, except that Shahji built it as a safe place of refuge in those turbulent times when, Ahmadnagar, the capital of the Nizamshahi had already fallen to the Mughals and Shahji was on the run. With the surrender of Shahji and his joining the services of Bijapur, the fort ceased to have any significance.

BHANDARA DISTRICT

1. B.28.
2. **Bhandara.**
3. Behnor.
4. Bhandara.
5. 21°08' lat., 79°38' Long.
6. NN
7. L.F.
8. S.F.
9. Box.
10. NK but pre-1600 A.D.
11. The fort of Behnor, later corrupted to Bhandara, was at one time an ancient stronghold of the Gond Chief who later established a kingdom. An inscription testifies to the antiquity of the fort. It is now in ruins.
12. Historical data is not available. It must have had some military value as it guarded the north eastern approaches to the then Gondwana and later Berar.

1. P.19.
2. **Pauni.** (See Photograph No. 44)
3. ---
4. Bhandara.

5. 20°45' Lat., 79°37' Long.
6. 181 deg., 43 kms. from Bhandara.
7. L.F.
8. S.F.
9. Box.
10. Pre-1400 A.D.
11. The fort was built on the banks of the Wainaganga. It had strong fortifications and a wide moat all around. The ramparts and gateways are still intact although the inside of the fort has been much disfigured and a township has arisen.
12. The history of Pauni is very old. It was a centre of Buddhism and was a prosperous place and hence, probably, invited attacks from all powers who descended in the area. One of the prettiest forts it has been the good fortune of the author to see, Pauni must also have played an important tactical role as it controlled river trade and the north-south route in that area.

BIR (BEED) DISTRICT

1. A.4.
2. **Adas.**
3. ---
4. Bir.
5. 18°46' Lat., 76°09' Long.
6. 118 deg. 55 kms. from Bir.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Box.
10. NK
11. It was a subsidiary fort to Dharur. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available. An outpost to Dharur, it would not have had any independent military significance.

1. D.21.
2. **Dharur.** (See Fig. 127 and Photograph No 45)
3. Fatahabad.
4. Bir.

5. 18°50' Lat., 76°08' Long.
6. 117 deg., 45 ms. from Bir.
7. L.F./H.
8. M.F./S.F.
9. Box.
10. Ali Adil Shah, in ?
11. The fort was built on an isolated hill with a ravine on two sides. It had ramparts 10 mtrs. high and many bastions. The main gate faced the Dharur village. The fort is in near ruins.
12. Historical data in respect of the fort is inadequate. It was an important Bijapur fort and was captured by the Mughals in 1630 A.D. It played an important role in the Nizamshahi-Adilhahi acrimony and wars.

1. K.2.
2. **Kada.**
3. ---
4. Bir.
5. 18°54' Lat., 75°05' Long.
6. 120 deg., 42 kms. from Ahmadnagar.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Box.
10. NK
11. The fort is not listed in SS or the Gaz., but clearly shown on SI map, Sheet 47-N-1 and hence included. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available. Its location on the main route from Ahmadnagar to Usmanabad and beyond must have given it some importance.

1. W.1.
2. **Wadgaum.**
3. ---
4. Bir.
5. 19°03' Lat., 74°55' Long.
6. 100 deg., 19 kms. from Ahmadnagar fort.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.

9. Box.
10. NK
11. A small mud and brick fort, it is shown on SI map, Sheet 47-I-16. Physical description is not available. It is in ruins.
12. Historical data is not available.

BULDHANA DISTRICT

1. F.1.
2. **Fatehkheda.**
3. ---
4. Buldhana.
5. 20°13' lat., 76°27' Long.
6. 146 deg., 45 kms. from Buldhana.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Box.
10. NK
11. Physical description is not available. It may have been a fortified village rather than an independent fort set away from the village. The Gaz. does not mention it but the M.T.D.C. map does.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. S.33.
2. **Sindhkhedraja.**
3. ---
4. Buldhana.
5. 19°57' Lat., 76°10' Long.
6. 185 deg., 70 kms. from Buldhana.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Box.
10. NK
11. Like Fatehkheda, this fort is also not shown in the SS or Gaz. but is marked on the M.T.D.C. map. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

CHANDRAPUR DISTRICT

1. C.16.
2. **Chimur.**
3. ---
4. Chandrapur.
5. 20°28' Lat., 79°22' Long.
6. 09 deg., 60 kms. from Chandrapur.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Box.
10. NK
11. The fort does not exist today. Physical description is not available. A Part of the village is called "killa" apparently because a fort did exist at that spot a long time ago.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. K.42.
2. **Khatoda.**
3. ---
4. Chandrapur.
5. 20°20' lat., 79°22' Long.
6. 80 deg., 36 kms. from Warora.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Box.
10. Gond Kings, in --- ?
11. It was a large, fairly strong fort with a moat and a double line of defence built out of stone. Only a few remains can now be seen.
12. Historical data is not available. It must have covered Chandrapur in the North.

DHULE DISTRICT

1. B.20.
2. **Betavad.**
3. ---
4. Dhule.
5. 21°53' Lat., 74°53' Long.

6. 25 deg., 33 kms. from Dhule.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Box.
10. NK
11. The only reference to the Betavad fort in the Gaz. is a historical one and does not give any physical description.
12. The fort was held by a Brahmin named Daji Gopal and he evacuated the fort after the fall of Thalner to the E.I.C. in 1818 A.D.

AURANGABAD DISTRICT

1. B.30.
2. **Bhandargad.**
3. ---
4. Aurangabad.
5. 20°22' Lat., 75°51' Long.
6. 46 edge., 14 kms. from Bhokardan.
7. H.F., Hit., 622 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Box.
10. NK
11. The fort is not listed in the Gaz. but shown on SI map, as located on a hill near the base village of Palaskheda and now in ruins. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

JALNA DISTRICT

1. J.2.
2. **Jalna.**
3. ---
4. Jalna.
5. 19°50' Lat., 75°56' long.
6. NN
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Box.
10. NK but pre-1700 A.D.

11. The fort was certainly built before 1711 A.D. as seen from an inscription on the gate. It was square in shape with bastions at the four corners. The fort as such is in ruins. The later fortifications of the town can be seen in a broken down condition.
12. Historical data is not available. It may have been used as a screen to Aurangabad on the eastern approaches.

1. R.24.
2. **Rohilgad.**
3. ---
4. Jalna.
5. 19°44' Lat., 75°38' Long.
6. 235 deg., 30 kms. from Jalna.
7. L.F./H/-829 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Box.
10. NK
11. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

JALGAUM DISTRICT

1. J.6.
2. **Jamner.**
3. ---
4. Jalgaum.
5. 20°50' Lat., 75°45' Long.
6. 135 deg., 33 kms. from Jalgaum.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Box.
10. NK
11. The Gaz. describes it as an old fort of some consequence but physical description is not given.
12. Historical data is not available. However, Jamner is located north of the Ajanta group of forts and in the direct route from Burhanpur to Aurangabad. Hence it may have had some importance.

LATUR DISTRICT

1. A.31.
2. **Ausa.**
3. Amarpur, Ambarapur.
4. Latur.
5. 18°13' Lat., 76°30' Long.
6. 205 deg., 20 kms. from Latur.
7. L.F.
8. S.P.
9. Box.
10. NK
11. Ausa was a large land fort with high ramparts and a small glacis. There were two rows of ramparts with massive bastions. The fort is now in ruins.
12. Historical data is meagre. It figured prominently in the Nizamshahi-Adilshahi conflict. Malik held the fort for quite some time before it fell to Bijapur. It was taken over by the Mughals when the Adilshahi dynasty was finished by Aurangzeb in 1680 A.D. It was a secondary fort of some importance to the Nizamshi as it lay on the frontier.

NAGPUR DISTRICT

1. H.9.
2. **Hingana.**
3. ---
4. Nagpur.
5. 21°05' Lat., 78°55' Long.
6. 230 deg., 15 kms. from Nagpur.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Box.
10. NK
11. It was a small land fort built with bricks in mud mortar. It was near the twin village of Hingana and Raipur, separated by the river Vinna. The fort is now in ruins.
12. Historical data is not available. It could not have served anything more than as an outpost.

1. K.29.
2. **Katol.**
3. ---
4. Nagpur.
5. $21^{\circ}15'$ Lat., $78^{\circ}32'$ Long.
6. 283 deg., 51 kms. from Nagpur.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Box.
10. NK
11. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available. It might have guarded the north-western approaches to Nagpur.

1. N.1.
2. **Nagardhan.** (See Fig. 128 and Photograph No. 46)
3. ---
4. Nagpur.
5. $21^{\circ}18'$ Lat., $79^{\circ}17'$ Long.
6. 44 deg., 34 kms. from Nagpur.
7. L.F.
8. F.P./S.F.
9. Box.
10. NK
11. It was a square fort with an outer rampart with bastions and an inner wall surrounding the main building and the temple. The main gate was on the north-west face with a small postern on the opposite side. The novel feature of the fort is the temple which is sunk below the ground level and the idol is placed on a ledge of a well like structure. Legend has it that in case of any Muslim invasion, the structure was flooded with water and thus concealed the idol and prevented it from being destroyed.
12. Historical data is not available. Its location and strength would suggest that it must have been a secondary fort guarding the eastern approaches to Nagpur.

1. R.12.
2. **Ramtek.**
3. ---

4. Nagpur.
5. 21°22' Lat., 79°20' Long.
6. 45 deg., 36 kms. from Nagpur.
7. L.F./H.
8. F.P.
9. Box.
10. Raghuji Bhonsale in --- ?
11. The fort was built on a hill with two lines of defence. There were two gates to the fort and one to the citadel. The inner defences are still in a fair state of preservation.
12. Historical data is not available. Ramtek is more famous for its temple. It may be argued that Ramtek was a fortified temple rather than a fort with a temple within it. Traditionally, temples in India, unlike monasteries in Europe, were rarely fortified, and it will be in order to consider Ramtek as basically a fort.

1. S.19.
2. **Sawargaum.**
3. ---
4. Nagpur.
5. 21°23' Lat., 78°40' Long.
6. 45 deg., 15 kms. from Katol.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Box.
10. NK
11. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. S.39.
2. **Sitabaldi.**
3. ---
4. Nagpur.
5. 21°08' Lat., 79°05' Long.
6. Within Nagpur City.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.

9. Box.
10. Slightly fortified hill, re-built by the E.I.C. in 1818 A.D.
11. The fort took its present form after the Battle of Sitabaldi when Bhonsale's forces were defeated by a small body of E.I.C. troops. It was built on a slight rise in the ground. The fort walls are in a fair state of preservation. It is being used by an Army establishment.
12. The fort had no historical importance other than the battle for the hill feature. A cell where Mahatma Gandhi was kept for some time is unkempt with dust and cobwebs abounding. The spot where Nawab Kadar Ali Khan, the grandson of Tipu, was hanged is marked by a crude sign and a tattered canopy. The graves of the three British officers who fell in the battle are immaculately maintained!

1. U.3.
2. **Umred.**
3. ---
4. Nagpur.
5. 20°50' Lat., 79°17' Long.
6. 140 deg., 40 kms. from Nagpur.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Box.
10. Gond Raja Karanshah, 16th century.
11. The fort is now in total ruins and only a part of the wall and one bastion can be seen as one enters the town from Nagpur side.
12. Historical data is not available.

NANDED DISTRICT

1. K.21.
2. **Kandhar.**
3. ---
4. Nanded.
5. 18°52' lat., 77°14' Long.
6. 202 deg., 35 kms. from Nanded.
7. L.F.
8. M.F./S.F.
9. Box.

10. Ancient.
11. Kandhar had two rows of fortifications, ramparts and walls. The whole fort was surrounded by a moat. Entry to the fort was by way of intricately arranged gates with guard rooms on either side. The outer fortifications are in a tolerable state but the inner buildings are in total ruins.
12. Kandhar has a long history, dating back to the Rashtrakutas, King Krishna-III, who styled himself "Kandharpurdishevar". However, only fragments of the events connected with the fort are mentioned in historical narratives. It was, without doubt a strong Main, or Secondary fort of Bidar and later of Bijapur.

PARABHANI DISTRICT

1. J.12.
2. **Jintur.**
3. ---
4. Parabhani.
5. 19°37' Lat., 76°44' Long.
6. 345 deg., 40 kms. from Parabhani.
7. L.F./H.
8. F.P.
9. Box.
10. NK
11. The fort was built on a hill with steep sides which gave it natural protection. In addition there were strong walls and bastions. The approach was rugged and ended at a strong iron door. The fort is now in ruins.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. P.17.
2. **Patheri.**
3. ---
4. Parabhani.
5. 19°14' Lat., 76°28' Long.
6. 270 deg., 35 kms. from Parabhani.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.

9. Box.
10. NK
11. Physical description is not available. The fort is in ruins.
12. Historical data is not available.

PUNE DISTRICT

1. A.22.
2. **Andhalgaum.**
3. ---
4. Pune.
5. 18°37' lat., 74°24' Long.
6. 210 deg., 6.5 kms. from Nhavra.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Box.
10. NK
11. The fort is not listed in SS or the Gaz. However, it is clearly marked on SI map, Sheet 47-J-6, B.2., located 4 kms. North of Bhima. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. B.15.
2. **Baramati.**
3. ---
4. Pune.
5. 18°08' lat., 74°47' Long.
6. NN
7. F.P.
8. L.F.
9. Box.
10. Ancient.
11. Strictly speaking, Baramati may be classified as a fortified city. However, its extensive fortifications, some of which survive today, and its use as a military base, has influenced its inclusion as a fort.
12. Baramati has a long history but its importance as a military base grew only with the Mughals.

1. M.39.
2. **Mathan.**
3. Malchan in SI map.
4. Pune.
5. 18°50' lat., 74°14' Long.
6. 347 deg., 9.3 kms. from Ranjangaum.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Box.
10. NK
11. The fort is not listed in SS or Gaz. but is shown in SI map, Sheet 47-J-1, C.2., and hence included. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. M.41.
2. **Medad.**
3. ---
4. Pune.
5. 18°08' Lat., 74°32' Long.
6. 290 deg., 4 kms. from Baramati.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Box.
10. NK
11. Physical description is not available except that it was a beautiful fort with a very large gun on its rampart.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. P.16.
2. **Parwadi.**
3. ---
4. Pune.
5. 18°17' lat., 74°40' Long.
6. 230 deg., 10 kms. from Bhigwan.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Box.

10. NK
11. Pargad is not listed in SS or the Gaz. but is shown on SI map, Sheet 47-J-11, B.3., and hence included. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. R. 15.
2. **Ranjangaum.**
3. ---
4. Pune.
5. 18°52' lat., 74°35' Long.
6. 210 deg., 16 kms. from Shirur.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Box.
10. NK
11. The fort is not listed in SS or the Gaz. but shown on SI map, Sheet 47-J-1, C. 3., and hence included. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

SANGLI DISTRICT

1. B. 37.
2. **Bhopalgad.**
3. ---
4. Sangli.
5. 17°14' lat., 74°52' Long.
6. 55 deg., 37 kms. from Tasgaum.
7. L.F. /H., 859 mtrs., ASL.
8. F.P.
9. Box.
10. King Bhupal in --- ?
11. The fort was built on a hill and had a wall and an inner *bale killa*. It was protected by natural defences on three sides. The approach was from the base village of Jarandi or Baner. The two tracks met a little short of the gate. The last bit of the climb was by steps.
12. Historical data is meagre. It was with Shivaji in 1679 A.D. In that year Sambhaji rebelled and captured it at the head of Mughal troops, the

killedar hesitating to fire upon his master's son and a prince. It fell to the E.I.C. in 1818 A.D.

1. P. 6.
2. **Palshi.**
3. ---
4. Sangli.
5. 17°13' lat., 74°49' Long.
6. 100 deg., 30 kms. from Vite.
7. L.F. /H.
8. F.P.
9. Box.
10. Koli Rajas (legend)
11. It was a fort of considerable antiquity. Its walls and bastions were built between two streams. Ruins of the walls and some plinths can be seen. The fort, lying north of the Kara Bijapur highway, can be made out from the road.
12. Historical data is not available.

SOLAPUR DISTRICT

1. A. 12.
2. **Akluz.**
3. ---
4. Solapur.
5. 17°53' Lat., 75°01' Long.
6. 67 deg., 11 kms. from Malshiras.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Box.
10. NK
11. Akluz has been listed as a land fort in SS, but the physical description is not available.
12. Akluz was used a great deal by the Mughals in their operations against the Marathas. Aurangzeb camped here for some time. Its military value as an advanced base, especially on Satara axis was well established.

1. K. 27.
2. **Karmala.**
3. ---
4. Solapur.
5. 18°24' lat., 75°11' Long.
6. 326 deg., 41 kms. from Kurudwadi RS.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Box.
10. NK
11. It was built on top of a small hill. Not listed in the Gaz. or SS, it is shown on SI map, Sheet 47-N-3. Physical description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. M. 5.
2. **Madha.**
3. ---
4. Solapur.
5. 18°02' lat., 75°29' Long.
6. 220 deg., 18 kms. from Barshi.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Box.
10. NK
11. The fort was located near the village of Madha. It has strong ramparts and bastions at the four corners, and flanking the gates. Inside, there were numerous buildings. The fort is in ruins, and is being engulfed by the township at a pace where it will totally disappear very soon. The material of the fort is being pilfered for building private homes.
12. Historical data is not available. It was, obviously, an outpost between Solapur and Parinda.

1. M. 23.
2. **Manchur.**
3. ---
4. Solapur.
5. 17°37' lat., 75°30 Long.

6. 107 deg., 20 kms. from Pandharpur.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Box.
10. Aurangzeb in ---
11. Physical description is not available.
12. Aurangzeb built this fort on the Bhima river as one of his camps.

1. M. 44.
2. **Mohol.**
3. ---
4. Solapur.
5. 17°07' lat., 75°38' Long.
6. 300 deg., 30 kms. from Solapur.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Box.
10. NK
11. There were two small forts, very close to each other, situated just outside the village of Mohol. Nothing remains of the forts now due to the expansion of the village into a township.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. T. 5.
2. **Tembhurni.** (See Fig. 129)
3. ---
4. Solapur.
5. 18°02' Lat., 75°12' Long.
6. 296 deg., 85 kms. from Solapur.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Box.
10. NK, but renovated by Shahaji.
11. It was a rectangular fort with bastions at the four corners and the middle of each side. There were two gates. Two temples and some water tanks and buildings existed. The buildings are no more. The temples survive. There are a number of houses within the fort today.

12. Historical data is not available. However, Shahji, in a petition to the Bijapur Sultan asked for the assignment of a few places for the upkeep of his troops. Tembhurni was one of them. It must have had some tactical importance for Shahaji as it covered his other estates farther west.

USMANABAD DISTRICT

1. P. 12.
2. **Parinda.** (See Photograph No. 48)
3. ---
4. Usmanabad.
5. 18°15' lat., 75°24' Long.
6. 280 deg., 25 kms. from Barshi.
7. L.F.
8. S.F. / M.F.
9. Box.
10. Ancient.
11. It was a very strong fort of solid construction with ramparts and twenty six bastions, two of which flanked the massive gate. The fort was surrounded by a moat. It had many cannons with high sounding names, like Malik Mardan.
12. Parinda's history is quite old although details are not known with any certainty. After the fall of Ahmadnagar to the Mughals, Parinda was, for sometimes, the capital of the Nizamshahi. It went to Bijapur in 1630 and to the Mughals in 1680 A.D. Its location and strength made it an important fort which was coveted by all the regional powers.

WARDHA DISTRICT

1. D. 9.
2. **Deoli.**
3. ---
4. Wardha.
5. 20°38' lat., 78°29' Long.
6. 327 deg., 18 kms. from Wardha.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Box.
10. NK

11. Deoli has been listed as a fort. However, I found no trace when I visited the village. Its former description is not available.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. S. 42.
2. **Sonegaum.**
3. ---
4. Wardha.
5. 20°37' Lat., 78°40' Long.
6. 140 deg., 12 kms. from Wardha.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Box.
10. NK
11. Sonegaum has been listed as a fort. However, I drove through the place and had a hot cup of tea with the Station Master of the Railway Station. He called a few old people around the place and none could place the fort or say with any certainty that it had existed at one time.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. D. 26.
2. **Drug.**
3. ---
4. Yewatmal.
5. 20°22' lat., 78°20' Long.
6. 155 deg., 8 kms. from Kalam.
7. H.F.
8. F.P.
9. Box.
10. NK
11. The fort was protected by walls, and surprisingly for a hill fort, by a trench like structure. More details are not given in the Gaz. or other sources. The area is surrounded by thick jungles full of wild animals and I could not induce any young local farmer to guide me upto the fort.
12. Historical data is not available.

1. K. 6.
2. **Kalam.**
3. Kalamb, Kolambi.
4. Yewatmal.
5. 20°27' Lat., 78°18' Long.
6. 75 deg., 20 kms. from Yewatmal.
7. L.F.
8. F.P.
9. Box.
10. NK
11. The fort has been listed in the Gaz. but its physical description has not been given. I stayed overnight at Kalamb and saw a fort like structure in the village which is in total ruins and is being used as an open air toilet.
12. Historical data is meagre. It is recorded that Kalam and other forts in Berar were ceded by Chandbibī to the Mughals in 1590 A.D. Legend has it that Kalamb was known as the village of the twelve chiefs *barā patils* and was very prosperous. Some calamity overtook it and the place was deserted by its whole population. When people came back, they found a lot of gold statuettes and ornaments strewn all over.

Saptashrungi

The case of Saptashrungi is taken up separately as there is controversy whether or not it is, or was, a fort. The term Saptashrunggad would denote that it was a fort but on the ground no fortifications are seen. The temple of Saptashrungi with its protective wall is, of course, very famous but with a formidable fort like Ahiwant so close by it would appear that there was no necessity of fortifying the hill on which the temple stands.

See Photograph No 49

THE IMPACT OF FORTS

1. Introduction

In studying the impact of forts of Medieval India in various fields, political, politico-strategical, strategical, tactical, one has to take into account many variables. Some of these are :

- (a) The differing political aims of the powers involved.
- (b) The various levels at which forts were made use of.
- (c) The Climate of History at that time.
- (d) The location, category and classification of the forts.
- (e) The armaments in use.
- (f) The strength and morale of the garrison and of troops as a whole.
- (g) The character and leadership of the King.

Each variable had different impact at different times. For example, by the very fact of their location, the forts of the Sahyadris had a greater role to play than the forts of the plains. Raigad fell to Aurangzeb not because of his successful assault, but because the commander of the fort was bribed. This would not have been possible in Shivaji's time.

Thus a detailed analysis of the impact of forts needs a separate, in depth study and must form the subject of another book. I am, however, taking some points for review, restricting myself to the forts of Maharashtra.

2. Statistical Approach

I have listed 463 forts in the main list. This figure may cross the 500 mark if some of the forts not yet identified, as given in Appendix 'B', are located. However, taking $n = 463$, the district - wise break down is : Ahmadnagar, 15 ; Akola, 5 ; Amravati, 6 ; Aurangabad, 10 ; Bhandara, 8 ; Bir, 4 ; Bombay, 8 ; Buldhana, 3 ; Chandrapur, 6 ; Dhulia, 23 ; Gadchiroli, 5 ; Jalna, 2 ; Jalgaum, 16 ; Kolhapur, 17 ; Latur, 2 ; Nagpur, 10 ; Nanded, 3 ; Nasik, 54 ; Parbhani, 2 ; Pune, 35 ; Raigad, 50 ; Ratnagiri, 31 ; Sangli, 12 ;

Satara, 34 ; Sindhudurg, 30 ; Solapur, 8 ; Thane, 58 ; Usmanabad, 2 ; Wardha, 2 and Yavatmal, 4. Total 463.

If this distribution is related to the perceived threat at that time (1600 — 1800 A.D.) then some anomalies arise. If the threat to the Maratha home land, the Konkan, was from the North and East, then one would expect the largest number of forts in the 'covering' districts of Dhule, Nasik, in the North and Sangli, Kolhapur in the East. In the case of the former this may hold true to some extent, but in case of the latter, we find that the total in the two districts of Sangli and Kolhapur is 29, whereas the total for the two coastal districts of Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg comes to 61. Thus there were more forts West of the Sahyadris, than on the East, and certainly the threat from the sea was never as great as the threat from the land. Similarly if we examine the defensive requirements of the five splinter groups of the Bahamani Kingdom, then one would have expected a far larger number on the frontiers of the States, say, Nizamshahi and Adilshahi, than in the interiors. It is clear that the whole question of the location of forts in such high density in Western Maharashtra has to be studied in detail.

If we plot the forts in terms of Latitude and Longitude we again notice a very great concentration between 17°30' to 20°30' Latitude and between 73°00' to 74°00' Longitude, as shown in the table below :

Table 1 : Distribution of Forts Western Maharashtra

Long		72	73	74	75	Total
Lat	22	1	3	13		17
			CORE			
	21	9	18	27		54
	20	30	53	3		86
	19	13	52	3		68
	18	—	40	16	(163)	56
	17	—	26	16		42
	16	—	9	13		22
	15	—	—	6		6
		53	201	97		351

Out of 463 forts in the entire Maharashtra, 351 are in Western Maharashtra, and out of these, 163, i.e., 46.43 per cent are in the core area of Shivaji's Kingdom. How can we relate it to strategical or tactical

considerations? Or are we to assume that geography was mainly responsible, in terms of hills and peaks which could be fortified with very little effort as compared to building large forts on the plains. This aspect, too, has not been satisfactorily explained,

If we consider forts category wise, the position is as given in the table below :

Table 2 : Distribution of Forts Category - Wise

<i>Sr.</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
1.	Island Forts (I.F.)	11	2.38
2.	Coastal Forts (C.F.)	71	15.33
3.	Hill Forts (H.F.)	225	49.00
4.	Land Forts (L.F.)	156	33.29
	Total	463	100.00

Popular sentiment associates the forts of the Western Maharashtra with Shivaji's efforts to create an independent Hindu State, and he is credited with building a large number of them. In reality, most of the forts were in existence from the pre 1600 - A.D. period and Shivaji himself built a very few forts from scratch. Shivaji, no doubt, needed forts, but did he need so many ?

Coming to the functional classification, the position is as follows :

Table 3 : Distribution of Forts by Classification

<i>Sr.</i>	<i>Classification</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
1.	Main Forts (M.F.)	48	10.36
2.	Secondary Forts (S.F.)	37	8.00
3.	Fortified Outposts (F.P.)	378	81.64
	Total	463	100.00

These figures confirm the view that the hilly terrain promoted the construction of forts. Many of the forts located on the Deccan Plateau, though having all the characteristics of a land fort, were built on hills, because the desire to occupy high ground was always a basic tactical concept. Such forts, e.g., Deogiri, have been marked L.F./H., the suffix 'H' to denote that they were built on a hill feature.

Only 48, *i.e.*, 10 per cent of all the forts of Maharashtra can be called Main Forts, whose military use was greater than their political or administrative value, at least for some time. 37 or 8 per cent may be called secondary forts, supporting the main forts in a substantial manner. Otherwise a very large majority, 378, or 81.64 per cent were merely outposts, whose tactical value was very limited. Had there been some system of main forts being surrounded by a ring of secondary forts, with a further outer ring of outposts, then some sound military value could have been ascribed to them. But the position on the ground is totally different. The present juxtaposition does not suggest any planning and the conclusion is strengthened that the availability of suitable ground was, perhaps, the main consideration. Only Shivaji seems to have built a few forts in the Satara region with some planning and with the definite aim to cover the eastern approaches to his kingdom.

19 per cent of the total forts, 88 in number, are coastal forts. One can see that not all of these were important from naval point of view. Many were built by the Portuguese as fortified trading posts and their value was in meeting local needs.

3. Forts in Politico-strategical Considerations

Let me start by taking up a fundamental issue. War has been aptly described as continuation of policy by other means, *i.e.*, when diplomacy, alliances, economic, religious and social sanctions, etc., fail. Now it is an established historical fact that during the two centuries, 17th and 18th, (and indeed even earlier) war had become perhaps the ONLY means. Among the Great Mughals, only Akbar, (and to a certain extent Jehangir), tried diplomacy, marital alliances, recognition of Hindu talent, the lure of a just and peaceful civil and revenue administration, to gain his political aims. But even Akbar had to deal with unrest or go to war to extend the frontiers of his empire.

A question may sometimes be asked as to why the Mughals tried expansion southwards. After all, the Empire was large enough. The ryot was, by and large, totally subjugated and, left to their own devices, welcomed a strong Central Government which gave them peace and security of life and limb. The revenue system set up by Raja Todarmal was working well and the Imperial Treasury was full, indeed overflowing. The Deccan, at the beginning of the 17th century was firmly in the hands of Muslim rulers, and dealing with co-religionists should have been easy for the Mughals. Given this historical climate, where was the need for a military conquest? Why not a diplomatic overture?

The answer, leaving aside the personal ego and ambitions of the Monarch, perhaps lies in the fact that when land revenue was the only means of income, the acquisition of more and more land became a compulsive political aim. And even if diplomacy had succeeded in getting the Deccan Sultans to accept Mughal overlordship, and pay an annual tribute, the sum thus collected would not have been as great as that collected directly by way of land revenue. And since land could only be acquired by physical occupation, war became inevitable. It was the only means to achieve political aims and enrich the state treasury. And when physical occupation was not possible, as in the case of smaller powers, it was pillage and looting and the creation of fear which would enable taxes to be collected. Only war could get this to happen and only war could sustain war.

Given these conditions of almost perpetual warfare, everything connected with war became vital, and forts were an important component. But their role in politico-strategical considerations was more indirect than direct. The very nature of the forts of the Sahyadri and Konkan, *i.e.*, high density and very difficult and hilly terrain, made the total subjugation and occupation of forts an unattractive proposition. The Adilshahs of Bijapur were content to rule by proxy. They were prepared to let the Mores and the Jadhavs and the Jedhes occupy forts and small fiefdoms as long as they accepted Bijapur's sovereign status and were prepared to place their swords in Bijapur's service. In fact many Maratha nobles were thus left alone to exercise kingly powers without donning the robes of kingship and became more loyal to their master than even Muslim nobles. The physical occupation of forts thus did not enter into any politico-strategical planning of the Deccan Sultans, except for keeping their own man in charge of key forts. It was a wise thing to do, and when Aurangzeb changed this policy, even 25 years of campaigning did not yield the desired political aim.

As far as the forts of the Deccan plateau are concerned, they never excersised any lasting influence in evolving political aims, or grand strategy. The security of the State did not depend upon them exclusively and they were used more as symbols of sovereignty. In the 18th century, when the Peshwas looked northwards, the forts ceased to have any role in politico-strategical considerations. If only the Peshwa had first consolidated his power in the South, created a stable empire South of the Vindhya, forts would have continued to play some role for a decade or two, but this was not to be.

The impact of the forts of Western Maharashtra was, in another aspect of political thought, far reaching though invisible. The forts, no doubt

presented a physical barrier, but more so they induced a mental barrier which prevented the Mughals and the Deccan Sultans to look over the Sahyadri and on to the sea. They failed to realise the danger that was to come from it. They did not have any great interest in naval power and the need to combat the threat that the arrival of the Portuguese had already created. It was left to the genius of Shivaji to visualise this danger and to create a navy to meet it. But his efforts were not followed up, and came a little too late. The history of the Deccan, and the whole of India, would have taken a different turn if the foreign inroads had been eliminated when the native powers had the strength and ability to do so. The positive influence of forts, in creating a negative approach towards the sea and sea power, was immense.

4. Forts in Strategic Considerations

From the strategic point of view forts were centres where, and around which, military strength could be concentrated, where treasure and provisions could be secured, where the King's person could be protected, and from where offensive and defensive operations could be mounted. It would, therefore, appear, on the face of it, that forts would have played a major part in strategical considerations. In practice, however, this was not always so, and except for a brief period, their role was never overwhelming.

Let me first examine *strategic defence*. One example should suffice. The northern boundary of the Yadavas corresponded roughly with the present northern boundary of Maharashtra, and the chain of forts along this northern line have already been described. Of course, many of them were built after the fall of the Yadav dynasty, but the fact remains that many forts did exist. Yet, they could do nothing to stop the advance of the Khalji and the destruction of the Hindu kingdoms of the Deccan. The reasons were mainly two, Firstly the forts were not integrated into any master plan. Secondly, they were too far apart to be mutually supportive. The main approach from the North was through the Burhanpur gap and yet there were no main or subsidiary forts between Deogiri and this gap. Abhasgad and Baitulwadi were nearly a hundred kilometres south of the gap and nearly eighty kilometres north of Deogiri. We also do not know with certainty if these two forts were strong enough and adequately manned during that time. In any event Khalji did not use the Burhanpur gap, but came through Malaghat and turning west, approached Deogiri from the east. He had only 8000 horse with him and no infantry. Yet nowhere was he challenged or checked till he had reached quite close. What were the forts of Amner, or Gawilgad doing? They did nothing because they were geared for local defence and not integrated into any

national strategic plan. The Central Government at Deogiri did not have effective control over them and this weakness was compounded by the abysmal ignorance of the Yadav monarch about what was going on in the North, what threat was building up and of the finer points of military strategy and tactics.

The Nizamshahi forts of Daulatabad, Ahmadnagar, Perinda and Dharur were also too far apart. The distance between Daulatabad and Ahmadnagar is about 100 kms., between Parinda and Dharur 90 kms., and between Ahmadnagar and Dharur about 150 kms. These widely separated locations meant that they were strategically out of touch with each other. Even after the break up of the Ahmadnagar kingdom and the division of its territory between the Mughals and Adilshahis, strategic defence could not be built around forts because of the large gaps which remained. This enabled flanking movements and isolation and reduction of the forts comparatively easy.

The case of the Sahyadri and Konkan forts was entirely different. Here it was not a case of too few, and too far, but a case of too many, all within almost 'shaking hand' distance. Moreover, because of the terrain and the thickly wooded areas, they could not be easily by passed or out - flanked. Shivaji was, perhaps, the first to fully appreciate the part that forts could be called upon to play. His strategic plan, strategic defence plan, called for creating a number of tactical defensive positions in the form of forts. He fully utilised history's gift to him of the large number of forts which already existed and which he repaired or renovated as the need arose. In one memorable year, in nine months from April to December, 1660 he captured 22 forts. (for list, see end of chapter). He also built Pratapgad.

As if this was not enough, he carried out his strategic defence plan to its ultimate height by undertaking the Karnataka expedition. It secured him a large territory, with a number of forts, where he could fall back if too closely pressed in the North. It gave depth to his defence. The wisdom of this policy was proved when after Sambhaji's capture and execution, Rajaram found safety in this depth which his father had created.

Coming to *strategic offence*, the position is quite clear. There were two approaches. In the first, forts did not play a vital role or were not considered as primary strategic objectives, this approach is illustrated by Mirza Raja Jai Singh's campaign in the Deccan, which succeeded. In the second approach, that of Aurangzeb, the capture and reduction of forts were the prime strategic objectives to achieve the political aim of destroying the Maratha power forever. This failed. So obsessed was he with the idea of reducing Maratha forts that he lost sight of the politico-strategical aim of eliminating Maratha power. Conquests of forts from

being a means to an end, became an end in itself. In the 18th century when the Marathas swept North, the forts ceased to have any relevance in strategic offence. There two approaches - of Mirza Raja Jai Singh and that of Auranzab are so pregnant with lessons in military strategy that a separate study is necessary.

5. Forts in Tactical Consideration

Forts played an important role in both tactical offence and defence, but this was so only in the 17th century and before and mainly applicable to the hill forts. Used tactically in local defence, forts could tie down large enemy forces for a long time. Sorties from neighbouring forts could harass the besieging forces and cut the lines of supply. Shivaji certainly needed forts. But did he need so many ? At the beginning of the 17th century the majority of the forts of Maharashtra had already come into being. Most were built during the 15th and 16th centuries. Some, like Panahala are credited to King Bhoj in the 12th century and some, like Shivaneri, date back to ancient times. These forts passed through many hands and were either neglected or repaired and renovated by the occupying powers as the need arose. But the question remains—why were so many forts built, in such close proximity of each other and what possible military use did they have ? I am afraid no satisfactory answer has as yet been provided. The Mulher Cluster, for example, can be studied to see if any logical explanation can be deduced.

The Mulher Cluster has already been described. It had two main forts, Mulher and Salher, and a ring of six forts in an arc North of Mulher. The secondary fort of Hatgad was far to the South and did not directly support Mulher. Viewed from any angle, the locations provide no convincing arguments. If the whole cluster is with one power, then having two main forts within ten kilometres from each other makes no military sense. If, on the other hand the two forts are with different powers—as was the case in 1672 when Salher was with Shivaji but Mulher was with the Mughals,—then two forts do not support each other but are a threat. Similarly, if one argues that the ring of forts to the North of Mulher was necessary as outposts, then logically, there should have been a similar ring to the South of Mulher from which direction the main approach lay. If one thinks in terms of protecting lines of communication, then Mulher to the East, and Hatgad to the West were more than adequate to control the two main axis, from Pimpalner in the North and Surgana in the West.

Coming to tactical offence, the role of forts was not as decisive as it is made out to be. If we study three of the more famous and decisive battles of Shivaji—the Battle of Salher, the Battle of Umrani and the Battle of

Pratapgad—it becomes clear that the forts did not play a direct tactical offensive role. The forts on the plains also did not become tactically vital. Even in the brilliant campaign of Wellesley, forts did not figure prominently in choosing the ground, resting a flank, or holding of reserves. The capture of Gavilgad was born more out of a political need than a purely military one.

The whole aspect of the impact of forts in the purely military field needs a separate and detailed study which the author hopes to undertake in the near future.

The discussion of forts in the tactical area will not be complete without touching upon two issues, however briefly. The first relates to guerrilla warfare and the second to the kind of arguments in use, particularly artillery.

Shivaji is often credited with the introduction of those planned movements and use of forces, which are now placed under the term guerrilla warfare. The essence of this mode of fighting is its use by an inferior force to combat vastly superior numbers by tactics which entail very rapid marches, avoidance of positional warfare, and tactical retreats from one area to launch an attack in another, often far remote, place. This mode was first practised in a formal, organised manner by Malik Ambar thirty years before Shivaji's birth. Often on the run, with limited resources in men and material, he not only held at bay the might of the Mughal and Bijapur forces, but also inflicted a crushing defeat upon them at the Battle of Bhatvadi in 1624 A.D. He used the fort mainly to secure the person of the King and as a capital and not primarily for military purposes. Shivaji's contribution was to systematise the method and make guerrilla warfare an established art, to be used whenever opportunity arose and when it was apparent that with his limited force he could never take on the might of the Mughal army in a set piece, field encounter.

Guerrilla warfare, by its very nature, is a mobile concept. Forts, on the other hand, promote a static attitude. The two could thus meet only, perhaps, at the beginning or end of a raid. The forts provided logistic support and it is known that the Marathas on the march preferred to camp at the base of some fort.

The second point relates to armaments. A noticeable fact is that almost anything that could be thrown from the ramparts of a fort on the enemy below was used. Stones, boulders, burning rags, heated oil, all were used and it is recorded that big boulders thrown from the top often did far more damage than arrows or musketry fire. And they were cheaper in the bargain! Artillery in the 17th century had not reached a stage of

development where it could be effectively, and predominantly, used against a fort by the attacker, or from the ramparts of a fort by the defender. Cannons were often cast for their pomp and splendour and given high sounding names. They were so heavy that they could not be moved from place to place according to the needs. Nor could they be elevated or depressed or traversed sideways. These huge guns could thus throw a large ball, often to a great distance, but with a fixed trajectory. Hence the enemy could always avoid any damage by moving a little to the side of the line along which they knew the missile would come. It should also be remembered that guns used 'ball' non-exploding type of shell. Photograph No. 32 illustrates one such mammoth piece.

The improvement in artillery during the 18th century tilted the balance in favour of offense, but one cannot say that this was the main cause of the decline of forts as instruments of war. The lack of counter bombardment artillery on the forts was a major reason for their not being able to withstand sieges. In any case the Native powers never had any gun which would compare favourably with any of the foreigners. The Marathas and the Mughals were both dependent upon the English and the Portuguese for supply of artillery pieces and the required ammunition. It was only when DeBoigne organised the Scindia's army and opened ordinance factories that some improvement was made, but it could never match the superior ordinance of the E.I.C.

6. Defence in Depth

Much has been written about forts providing defence in-depth. This view also needs re-examination. When one talks about defence in-depth one must clearly understand the difference between defence of a fixed vital or vulnerable point (VP) and the general defence of an area, between static and mobile defence. The VP may be a fort by itself, or a pass, a town, a river crossing and so on. The area to be defended may be the border of a kingdom or a vital area within the kingdom. Defence may thus be linear or in-depth. One must also take into consideration other factors such as the direction of the enemy's thrust, his strategical and tactical aims, his strength and above all ones own aims and military strength available to achieve those aims.

The whole subject of the place of forts in the military affairs of that era needs a detailed analysis and this will be a little outside the purview of this work. However, it may be stated that the theoretical concept of defence in-depth, *i.e.*, a VP protected by a main fort and with a screen of secondary forts and fortified outposts, seems to have been put into practice only by Shivaji. Fig. 130 illustrates this concept.

7. Coastal Forts

Coastal forts are being dealt with separately as their character and influence was different from that of the hill or land forts. The Western coast of Maharashtra had a number of flourishing ports from ancient times. Sopara comes readily to mind as it was known even in the 1st century A.D. as is evident from its inclusion by Ptolemy in his history. There was a great deal of trade and commerce between the Konkan and the West, particularly the Arab countries. It was thus natural that forts would be built to protect these ports and other trading posts. Migrations could be expected and a large number of Abbysinians and Parsees did come. Raids were also to be expected but surprisingly there were very few raids or attempts to conquer land and occupy it. This can, perhaps, be explained by the fact that it was in the interests of the Arab traders to be in friendly relations with the native powers and, therefore, leave their ports and forts alone. Trade was the aim, not conquest, and except for an Arab raid near Surat in 613 A.D. the coast was by and large peaceful. Konkan was also isolated from the Deccan by the Sahyadris and the dense forests. Thus none of the Muslim powers, though they built a few coastal forts, had any lasting and deep interest in naval matters.

The situation changed dramatically with the arrival of the Portuguese. They came not only to trade but also to establish their rule over areas they considered vital for their trading and naval interests. This, naturally, gave a great impetus to fort building and a large number of forts and fortified outposts were built by them. Since the main purpose of the forts was to protect shipping they were built at the mouths of creeks and rivers. Thus we have Dahanu at the mouth of the Dahanu creek, Chinchani and Tarapur at the Tarapur creek, Mahim and Kelve at the mouth of the Mahim creek and so on all along the coast. All the important forts south of Bombay-Chaul, Bankot, Janjira, Suvarnadurg, Anjanvel, Ratnagiri, Vijaydurg, Sindhudurg were built along the coast or on Islands near the coast. In addition to the forts along the coast the need naturally arose to afford them some protection from the landward side and thus arose the inland forts, west of the Sahyadris. But with the decline of the Portuguese and Maratha powers and the virtual domination of the E.I.C. in this region, the importance of coastal forts also declined rapidly.

8. Forts in Political and Administrative Fields

Most of the rulers in the Deccan, including Shivaji, tried to use forts for purely military purposes and established civil administrative centres at the base, or near, the forts. The *Killedar* was a military officer, and the civil and revenue officers were the Deshmukhs, Despandes, Kulkarnis

and down the line to the village Patil. The two cadres were kept separate and the fort commander was instructed not to interfere in civil matters. Also, the command and control of the forts was exercised, in most cases, by officers directly responsible to the King and not to any provincial governor or noble. It is interesting to note that when Shahaji enjoyed the *jagir* of Pune, Supe and Indapur, the forts of Singhgad and Purandar remained firmly with officers under the direct control of the King. By and large the same policy continued till the advent of the Peshwas.

Centralised control became a key political policy of Shivaji. That was an age when a fort was both a source of strength as well as a potential point of unrest and rebellion if not firmly controlled. In fact, Shivaji went to the extent of forbidding the construction of any fort, or even a fortified residence, without his direct approval. But at the same time the forts represented military power in an age of military autocracy. The King was basically a military leader. Out of the eight cabinet ministers of Shivaji, six were liable for military service. Even so Shivaji was justly famous for the administrative and political systems he introduced and in which he did not visualise the forts to play an overwhelming part.

Yet, even in Shivaji's times there was a tendency of the civil officers to move to a fort. In theory, the military at the fort represented a force in being which could come to the aid of the civil authorities in times of stress or when there was tardiness in paying the taxes. In practise, however, forts themselves became the centres of civil and revenue matters. The civil administration can best function when there is peace and tranquility. But in an age of almost perpetual warfare, and with the population more often than not subjected to some raid or atrocity, the military was the only force which could provide security and stability and hence the forts, willy nilly, became more and more involved in administration of the country. When there was no police force as we understand the term today, it was the military at the fort which enforced the King's law, and kept the King's peace in the area under its immediate vicinity, the area under the Circle of Control as visualised by me. Forts thus became the hub of the political and administrative wheel of the State.

When the *jagirdari* system was re-introduced by the Peshwa, the forts were increasingly placed in charge of nobles, either as a reward or as a source of revenue for the upkeep of the force that he was required to maintain. Theoretically, this military force was to be kept at the disposal of the Peshwa. In practice, however, the force was never maintained at the required levels and the loyalty of the troops was to the master who paid them and directly controlled them and not the Peshwa in far off Poona. The nobles too had their own interests in mind and while the central,

Peshwa's treasury was empty, the nobles had immense personal fortunes. Thus the fort came to have greater importance as a political and administrative centre rather than as a military one. Thus when the doings of Raghoba split the Maratha State and the Barbhais took charge, Nana Fadnis moved the seat of administration and the pregnant wife of the late Peshwa to Purandar and not to Singhgad although it was militarily stronger, besides being much closer to Poona. This was solely because Purandar afforded political advantages which Singhgad did not.

9. Forts in Logistics Planning

The mobility of Shivaji's forces was phenomenal. So much so that his ability to "be here, there and everywhere," was ascribed to his having mastered the black art! But an army marches on its stomach, and logistic planning must precede every campaign. The forts provided Shivaji with logistic bases in all directions so that he could move about with very little baggage. Later, the flying columns of Santaji and Dhanaji were also extremely mobile but they lived off the land and did not worry too much about using forts as logistic bases or for that matter they were least concerned to the misery that the ryot was being subjected to. Another factor was that the large cavalry movements executed by these two generals were mostly in 'hostile' country.

For the Mughal army forts played very little part in logistics planning. Their camp, a moving city, had everything from grain to gold. Huge convoys of bullocks brought grain from every corner of the empire, a hereditary profession of the Banjaras. Mobility, consequently was never considered an important principle of war. If the Emperor advanced three or four *cos* a day, it was considered adequate.

10. Forts and Morale

Napoleon once said "moral is to the physical as three is to one." He was referring to the need of raising the fighting spirit of his troops to soaring heights. This 'spirit' of the troops, and many other elements combine to form a state of mind and body which we now term morale. It is a state which is not very tangible, a state which is subject to wide fluctuations, rising to great heights, and sinking to great depths due to seemingly small causes. It may be difficult to define and describe, but easy to see in the behaviour of soldiers and civilians alike. It must never be forgotten that morale is equally important for the civilian, the men and women who support the fighting man, both physically and emotionally. High morale takes a person to a point when one is prepared to give one's very life for the cause.

Consequently the will of the soldier and the civilian, to fight and resist whatever the cost or hardship, has always been a prime strategic target. Kautilya advocated spreading despondency amongst the people of the enemy nation. And down through the ages every conceivable method has been tried to raise the morale of ones own people and destroy the morale of the enemy. Terror has been the chief weapon. The pyramid of skulls of Timur ; the order of Shahjehan to his troops to kill, rape and ravish and even deprive the people of the clothes on their backs ; the carpet bombing of Germany during the IInd World War ; are all examples of terror used to destroy the morale of the people. And it is curious that in spite history teaching us that terror has never really succeeded, it keeps getting applied in ever increasing doses. Other methods have been tried. Bribes and promises have been tried. Propaganda has been tried. Treachery and subterfuge have been tried. Symbolism has been tried, as for example when Babar broke his wine cups. These method are many times more successful because they aim at the mind rather than the body, according to many, a softer target. Under attack by these means, the morale of the people, soldiers particularly, has often wilted. Yet there have been instances when it has withstood all attempts to break it. Of the many reasons given the main one appears to be the inspiration provided by the leader. And in medieval times, it was perhaps the only one.

Shivaji provided this inspiration. Sarkar¹ regards him "as the last great constructive genius and nation builder that the Hindu race has produced" As Ranade² puts it : "the plains and the forts were occupied (by the Mughals), Shivaji and his son were prisoners at Agra. And yet, there was not a single person who proved a traitor or joined the enemy." This tremendous morale was created by Shivaji almost from scratch because before him many Maratha chiefs were an abject and subjugated lot. How Shivaji achieved this resurgence of spirit is outside the scope of this narrative. But what is very much relevant is the part played by forts in this process.

It must be remembered that in that age the means and quality of communications was very poor. The country was thick with jungles with hardly any roads. There was no mass media and no rapid means of transmitting news or spreading ideas. Letters were carried on foot or on horse back and news more often than not, was passed by word of mouth. Yet Shivaji's fame, his message, his ideals of Maharashtra Dharma, his call to arms, spread rapidly to the far corners of his land and even beyond. Forts were the chief symbols of this image and the chief centres for propogating his message. The majority of the peasants, tilling their small plot of land in distant corners of the country, had never set their eyes on

Shivaji. And Shivaji had never set his foot on a large number of forts. To the ryot, with his very limited physical and mental horizon, the fort in his vicinity was the only real and tangible center of power. A place where he sold his produce, where he took shelter, where his taxes were sent, and from where oppression or benevolence flowed. The *killedar* was in most respects the arbitrator of their fate. Under these conditions the military and civil officers on the spot had tremendous influence. If they were selfish and corrupt, all was lost. But if they were loyal and imbued with a national spirit, everything fell in its proper place. It was the genius of Shivaji which created such a body of men. The forts became the symbols of freedom. The *bhagwa jendha* flying high from the fort became a beacon to the people, drawing them to the national cause, willing them to die for the King and Country.

When so much depended upon the person of the king or ruler, the danger lay in the fact that an incompetent king could undo in a year what his predecessor had taken a whole life time to build. And often in history we find strong men followed by weak sons or successors. Sambahji weakened the structure of the State to a considerable extent. But the morale of the Marathas survived him, rose to great heights under Rajaram, and just about maintained itself under the first three Peshwas. Thereafter the journey was all downhill. The defeat at Panipat, the emergence of independent chiefs in the North, the changing composition of the army which became non-Maratha in character, the internal rivalry and dissension, all contributed to the fall of morale and with it the fall of Maratha power. But one factor which should be added is that with the scene shifting to the North, the unifying force and the symbolism provided by the forts ceased to play a part.

11. High Density of Forts : A Hypothesis

The foregoing account of forts and the impact they had in various fields, still does not answer the question: why were there so many forts in Western Maharashtra and were they really needed. I offer a possible reason.

Western Maharashtra, right up to the middle of the 18th century was a very thickly wooded country. In the 15th and 16th centuries it was even more so. The difficult terrain could not be traversed easily and deep penetration was not possible without local help. The few established lines of communications, like the Nana Ghat in the north, and Amboli Ghat in the South were mere tracks suitable only to men and pack animals. Even these were often impassable during the monsoons. Under these conditions, with movement restricted and independent isolation

being the fact of life, there arose a large number of petty chiefs or polygors who were self-centred and whose whole life was spent worrying about their own security and with petty fights with their immediate neighbours. They were always on the lookout for protecting their interests and enlarging their fiefs, and thus naturally tried to fortify the naturally defensible peaks in their domain. These were primarily residences and only for local skirmishes of little military potential or value. This gave rise to a large number of fortified peaks which grew into more permanent structures and ultimately into forts. Some of them were no doubt very small but they served the purpose for which they were mainly intended, that of providing physical security.

Each new chief or ruler sought to add to the fortifications or build new ones. In the example of Mulher already discussed, the fort was built by the Bagul kings from whom, according to one theory, the name Baglan is derived. But when the area passed under the Rathods, they were not satisfied with Mulher and built Salher. As regards the other small forts, tradition has it that they were meant to house the near relatives of the king. Treachery was always present and the king's desire to have his relations under his watchful eye, yet away from his immediate presence, seemed logical. Indeed, the name Nhavi Killa is derived from the fact that the king was murdered by his barber when getting himself shaved. Hence the large number of small outposts. Ten Kilometres may sound a small distance today, but it was certainly 'far' in those times and a number of fortified residences just had to be built. It is emphasised once again that these were mainly for residential purposes and little military value attached to it.

With passage of time and improved communications, the petty fiefdoms were assimilated into larger holdings and came under the control of more powerful chiefs. But the forts remained. The Mores and the Jedhes and the Nimbalkars and the emerging Maratha nobility increased their domain and with it acquired the forts then existing in the areas so acquired. The Deccan Sultans were not duly alarmed at the large number of forts, potential trouble spots, because they posed no threat till such time the nobility was prepared to accept Muslim subjugation.

Into such a situation strode Shivaji. He was not prepared to accept Muslim overlordship and made it his life's work to establish a Hindu Kingdom. It was inevitable that he should come into conflict not only with Bijapur and the Mughals but also with his own clansmen who were not prepared to help him and worked actively for his ruin. Shivaji had thus no alternative to either win them over to his cause or to defeat and subjugate them or even eliminate them. And when he did so, he inherited the forts

along with the land and treasures of the defeated noble. Forts were physically present and could not be ignored. They had to be captured and they had to be manned because a fort not kept in control meant a fort lost to the enemy or internal rebels. Moreover each fort captured meant increasing the area of his influence and of future operations. A modern parallel may not be quite out of place here. The North African Campaign during the IInd World War was called a battle for airfields. Each airfield captured meant the further extension of air cover without which no land battle could succeed. For Shivaji, each fort captured meant an extension of his Circle of Control and a logistic base from which a further forward move could be made.

After he had consolidated his gains and established a Hindu kingdom in Western Maharashtra and the Karnataka, he certainly did not need so many forts. It is also significant that he made no move to enlarge his kingdom towards the plains of the Deccan. Strong under the shadows of his mountain forts, he would have been exposed and weak in the plains where there were no forts to make up his numerical inferiority. But what could he do with the forts which he had with him and which he had to defend because a fort not defended was as good as a fort lost to the enemy. He had two alternatives. One was to man them. The other was to destroy them. He must have found the first course less taxing in men and material and which at the same time provided him with secure administrative bases and military outposts. A century and a half later, the E.I.C. found the second course more beneficial. In this respect Elphinstone wrote "It is evident that these forts if kept up must be extremely expensive both in garrison and provision and repair and if merely abandoned by us could be liable to be occupied by insurgents and hill bandits, and being almost all exceedingly strong, might require a regular army to reduce them. It seemed, therefore, necessary to destroy them..."³ And indeed, a very large number of forts were destroyed, or the approaches blown up to make them inaccessible or they were dismantled and the material used elsewhere.

To sum up, the forts were built in large numbers because they were primarily meant to be residences. They were the product of the times. They were necessary for the small chiefs and when larger estates came to be established under a few families, the forts remained. With the passage of time and with greater communications and conflicts of a greater extent and scope, the forts came to acquire military value. And with the further passage of time when Maratha expansion was sought in the North, away from the forts, their value diminished till they came to be the personal holdings of the nobles, to serve them as administrative seats and a safe

'house' for their family and treasure. And when the capitals of kingdoms and seats of the noblemen shifted to the comfort and luxury of the palaces on the plains, the forts started their journey into oblivion.

NOTES

The forts captured in 1660 A.D. were Singhgad, Purandar, Chakan, Lohagad, Torna, Rajgad, Rairi, Prabalgad, Mahuli, Asheri, Panhala, Khelna, Vasantgad, Sonagad, Danda Rajapuri, Rajmachi, Manohargad, Rohida, Lingana, Telegad, Ghosalgad, and Kunwarigad. One fort, Pratapgad, was also built. Out of the above I have not been able to locate Sonagad.

1. Sircar Sir J.N., *Shivaji and His Times.*, page 368.
2. Ranade M.G., *Rise of the Maratha Power*, page 107.
3. *Papers from the East India House Records.*, Vol. IV, page 156.

APPENDIX 'A'

This is to be considered as the Master List. It has to following columns :

1. Master Serial Number.
2. Alphabetic Serial Number, starting with 'one' for each alphabet.
3. Name of the Fort.
4. Name of the District Where Located.
5. Page number where the Fort has been described.

Note : An asterisk (*) against a fort name indicates that a photograph has been given. Two asterisks (**) indicate that a figure showing the location or the layout of the fort has been provided. Three asterisks (***) would indicate that both photograph and figure have been provided.

The following abbreviations have been used for District names.

Ahmadnagar, AHM ; Akola, AKO ; Amravati, AMR ; Aurangabad, AUR ; Bhandara, BHA ; Bir is in full ; Bombay, BOM ; Buldhana, BUL ; Chandrapur, CHA ; Dhule, DHU ; Gadchiroli, GAD ; Jalna, JAL ; Jalgaum, JAM ; Kolhapur, KOL ; Latur, LAT ; Nagaur, NAG ; Nanded, NAN ; Nasik, NAS ; Parbhani, PAR ; Pune, PUN ; Ratnagiri, RAT ; Raiged, RAI ; Sangli, SAN ; Satara, SAT ; Sindhudurg, SIN ; Solapur, SOL ; Thane, THA ; Usmanabad, USM ; Wardha, WAR ; and Yevatmal, YEV.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
[A]				
001	A	01	Abhasgad.**	AUR 242
002		02	Achala.	NAS 59
003		03	Achalpur.	AMR 206
004		04	Adas.	BIR 246
005		05	Adgaum.	AKO 203
006		06	Agashi.	THA 96
007		07	Ahiwant.	NAS 60

(Contd.)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
008	08	Ahmadnagar.**	AHM	235
009	09	Ajare.	KOL	178
010	10	Akeri.	SIN	178
011	11	Akhrani.	DHU	194
012	12	Akluz.	SOL	260
013	13	Akola.*	AKO	202
014	14	Alang.**	NAS	82
015	15	Alibag.	RAI	122
016	16	Alibag.	THA	94
017	17	Amalner.	JAM	237
018	18	Ambagad.	BHA	207
019	19	Ambi Khurd.	PUN	231
020	20	Ambolgad.	RAT	174
021	21	Amner.	AMR	203
022	22	Andhalgaum.	PUN	257
023	23	Anjaneri*.	NAS	70
024	24	Anjanvel.	RAT	159
025	25	Ankai.	NAS	65
026	26	Antur.	ARU	236
027	27	Arnala.*	THA	96
028	28	Asava.	THA	78
029	29	Asheri.	THA	77
030	30	Assaye.**	AUR	242
031	31	Ausa.	LAT	251
032	32	Aundh.	SAT	227
033	33	Avachtigad.	RAI	122
034	34	Avandha.	NAS	82
035	35	Avre.	SIN	179
[B]				
036	B 01	Badanera.	AMR	241
037	02	Bagni.	SAN	170
038	03	Bahadurwadi.	SAN	170
039	04	Bahem.	SAN	171

(Contd.)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
040	05	Bahiravgad.	THA	104
041	06	Bahirgad.	SAN	163
042	07	Bahula.	NAS	70
043	08	Baitulawadi.**	AUR	243
044	09	Balapur.***	AKO	202
045	10	Ballalgad.	THA	78
046	11	Ballalpur.***	CHA	214
047	12	Balwantgad.	THA	83
048	13	Banda.	SIN	179
049	14	Bankot.	RAT	139
050	15	Baramati.	PUN	257
051	16	Basgad.	THA	71
052	17	Bavda.	KOL	171
053	18	Bavdhan.	SAT	154
054	19	Belapur.	RAI	110
055	20	Betawad.	DHU	249
056	21	Bhagwantgad.	SIN	187
057	22	Bhairavgad.	RAT	160
058	23	Bhairavgad.	SIN	179
059	24	Bhairavgad.**	SAT	163
060	25	Bhamer.	DHU	41
061	26	Bhamragad.	GAD	212
062	27	Bhanas Hivre.	AHM	235
063	28	Bhandara.	BHA	245
064	29	Bhandargad.	THA	87
065	30	Bhandargad.	AUR	250
066	31	Bharatgad.	SIN	187
067	32	Bhaskargad.	NAS	83
068	33	Bhavangad.	THA	91
069	34	Bhavangad.	RAT	164
070	35	Bhimgad.	NAG	207
071	36	Bhivgad.	RAI	110
072	37	Bhopalgad.	SAN	259

(Contd.)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
073	38	Bhupatgad.	THA	71
074	39	Bhorap.	RAI	110
075	40	Bhorgad.	NAS	72
076	41	Bhudargad.	KOL	180
077	42	Bhupalgad.	RAI	133
078	43	Bhushangad.	SAT	227
079	44	Birwadi.	RAI	123
080	45	Bitangad.	AHM	84
081	46	Bodvad.	JAM	200
082	47	Bombay.	BOM	120
083	48	Borale.	NAS	65
084	49	Borgaum.	SAN	224
[C]				
085	C 01	Chakan.*	PUN	233
086	02	Chambhargad.	RAI	133
087	03	Chandan.**	SAT	154
088	04	Chanderi.	RAI	111
089	05	Chandgad.	JAM	180
090	06	Chandgad.	KOL	201
091	07	Chandpur.	BHA	208
092	08	Chandragad.	RAI	146
093	09	Chandrapur.**	CHA	213
094	10	Chandvad.*	NAS	58
095	11	Chatale.	THA	94
096	12	Chaul.	RAI	123
097	13	Chauler.**	NAS	46
098	14	Chaugaum.	JAM	197
099	15	Chavand.*	PUN	104
100	16	Chimur.	CHA	249
101	17	Chinchgad.	BHA	210
102	18	Chinchani.	THA	79
103	19	Chopda.	JAM	197

(Contd.)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
[D]				
104	D 01	Dahanu.	THA	77
105	02	Danda.	THA	94
106	02A	Dindu.	THA	79
107	03	Danda Rajpuri.	RAT	140
108	04	Dategad.**	SAT	164
109	05	Dativre.	THA	97
110	06	Daulatmangal.	PUN	233
111	07	Dehra.	JAM	66
112	08	Deogiri.	AUR	236
113	09	Deoli.	WAR	263
114	10	Dermal.**	DHU	47
115	11	Devgad.*	SIN	175
116	12	Devgad.	RAI	141
117	13	Devrukh.	RAT	165
118	14	Dabhol.	RAT	160
119	15	Dhadgaum.	DHU	193
120	16	Dhak.	RAI	111
121	17	Dhamnya.**	NAS	47
122	18	Dhangad.	PUN	112
123	19	Dharavi.	THA	97
124	20	Dharni.	AMR	204
125	21	Dharur.***	BIR	246
126	22	Dhodap.**	NAS	60
127	23	Dhule.	DHU	54
128	24	Dondwada.	DHU	196
129	25	Dronagiri.	RAI	124
130	26	Drug.	YAV	264
131	27	Dudmal.	AUR	243
132	28	Dusana.	DHU	42
[E]				
133	E 01	Ekadara.	AHM	238
134	02	Elephanta.	BOM	120

(Contd.)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
		[F]		
135	F 01	Fattekheda.	BUL	248
136	02	Fattegad.**	RAT	141
		[G]		
137	G 01	Gadahinglaz.	KOL	222
138	02	Galna.**	NAS	55
139	03	Gambhirgad.	THA	80
140	04	Gandharvagad.	KOL	221
141	05	Ganeshgad.	SAN	223
142	06	Gawilgad.***	AMR	205
143	07	Ghanora.	DHU	194
144	08	Ghargad.	NAS	72
145	09	Ghodbandar.*	THA	97
146	10	Ghosalgad.	RAI	125
147	11	Gorakhgad.	THA	88
148	12	Govagad.**	RAT	141
149	13	Govalkot.**	RAT	161
150	14	Gumtara.	THA	88
151	15	Gunwantgad.**	SAT	165
		[H]		
152	H 01	Hadsar.*	PUN	105
153	02	Hanumangad.	NAS	48
154	03	Hanumantgad.	SIN	181
155	04	Harishchandragad.	AHM	105
156	05	Harshgad.***	NAS	73
157	06	Hatgad.***	NAS	48
158	07	Hevlak.	SAT	166
159	08	Hindola.	RAI	133
160	09	Hingana.	NAG	252
		[I]		
161	I 01	Indragad.	THA	80
162	02	Indrai.	NAS	61
163	03	Indori.**	PUN	112

(Contd.)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
[J]				
164	J 01	Jaigad.	RAT	161
165	02	Jalna.	JAL	250
166	03	Jallalkheda.	NAG	206
167	04	Jamba.	RAT	142
168	05	Jamgaum.	AHM	234
169	06	Jamner.	JAL	251
170	07	Jangli Jaygad.**	SAT	155
171	08	Janjira.*	RAI	125
172	09	Jawlya.	NAS	61
173	10	Jivdhan.	PUN	106
174	11	Jivdhan.	THA	98
175	12	Jintur.	PAR	256
176	13	Junnar.	PUN	106
[K]				
177	K 01	Kachan.	NAS	49
178	02	Kada.	BIR	247
179	03	Kagal.	KOL	171
180	04	Kajagad.	BHA	209
181	05	Kaldurg.	THA	92
182	06	Kalamb.	YAV	265
183	07	Kalanidhigad.	KOL	181
184	08	Kalyan.	THA	88
185	09	Kamalgad.**	SAT	147
186	10	Kamalgad.	SAT	155
187	11	Kamandurg.	THA	98
188	12	Kamtekot.	SIN	175
189	13	Kamtha.	BHA	208
190	14	Kanchana.	NAS	62
191	15	Kankrala.	NAS	55
192	16	Kamsagad.	RAI	126
193	17	Kanhergad.	NAS	62

(Contd.)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
194	18	Kanheri.	THA	98
195	19	Kanakadri.**	NAS	66
196	20	Kanakdurg.	RAT	142
197	21	Kandhar.*	NAN	255
198	22	Kangori.	RAI	134
199	23	Kanvai.	NAS	73
200	24	Karad.**	SAT	225
201	25	Karanja.	RAI	126
202	26	Karhe.	NAS	49
203	27	Karmala.	SOL	261
204	28	Karanala.**	RAI	127
205	29	Katol.	NAG	253
206	30	Kaula.**	RAI	134
207	31	Kautha.	PUN	234
208	32	Kayar.	YAV	216
209	33	Kelve.	THA	99
210	34	Kelapur.	YEV	216
211	35	Kenjalgad.**	SAT	147
212	36	Khanapur.	DHU	42
213	37	Khandaragad.	JAM	196
214	38	Khanderi.	RAI	127
215	39	Kharda.	AHM	240
216	40	Khare Patan.	RAT	176
217	41	Khatagad.	NAS	74
218	42	Khatoda.	CHA	249
219	43	Khaubladha.	RAI	128
220	44	Khatale.	THA	94
221	45	Kittal.	THA	94
222	46	Kohaj.	THA	92
223	47	Koldher.	NAS	62
224	48	Kole.	SAT	225
225	49	Koparli.	DHU	43
226	50	Korlai.***	RAI	128

(Contd.)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
227	51	Kothaligad.	RAI	113
228	52	Kudal.	SIN	187
229	53	Kulaba.**	RAI	121
230	54	Kulang.**	NAS	84
231	55	Kumwarigad.**	PUN	113
232	56	Kunjalgad.	AHM	107
233	57	Kurdugad.	RAI	135
[L]				
234	L 01	Laling.***	DHU	54
235	02	Lasalgaum.	NAS	67
236	03	Lasur.	JAM	196
237	04	Lingana.	RAI	135
238	05	Lohagad.***	PUN	109
239	06	Loni Bhapkar.	PUN	230
[M]				
240	M 01	Machal.	KOL	172
241	02	Machindragad.	SAN	224
242	03	Madangad.**	NAS	85
243	04	Madgad.	RAI	143
244	05	Madha.	SOL	261
245	06	Madhala Buruz.	THA	94
246	07	Mahadevgad.	SIN	181
247	08	Mahim.	THA	91
248	09	Mahim.	BOM	120
249	10	Mahimangad.**	SAT	228
250	11	Mahimangad.	RAT	166
251	12	Mahimangad/**		
		Mahimandangad.	SAT	148
252	13	Mahipalgad.	KOL	221
253	14	Mahipatgad.	RAT	148
254	15	Makarandgad.	SAT	149
255	16	Mahuli.	THA	86

(Contd.)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
256	17	Mahur.***	NAN	216
257	18	Malakapur.*	BUL	201
258	19	Malang-gad.**	RAI	114
259	20	Malavdi.**	SAT	228
260	21	Malegaum.**	NAS	56
261	22	Malhargad.	PUN	232
262	23	Manchur.	SOL	261
263	24	Madangad.	RAT	143
264	25	Mangad.	RAI	136
265	26	Mangalvedha.	SOL	219
266	27	Mangi.*	NAS	50
267	28	Manikgad.***	CHA	215
268	29	Manikgad.**	RAI	115
269	30	Manikpunj.	NAS	67
270	31	Manohargad.**	SIN	182
271	32	Manor.	THA	93
272	33	Manaranjan.	RAI	129
273	34	Manaranjan.	PUN	114
274	35	Manasantoshgad.	SIN	182
275	36	Markandya.***	NAS	63
276	37	Masur.	SAT	226
277	38	Mathane.	THA	94
278	39	Mathan.	PUN	258
279	40	Mazgaum.	BOM	120
280	41	Medad.	PUN	258
281	42	Miraj.	SAN	220
282	43	Mohangad.	PUN	149
283	44	Mohol.	SOL	262
284	45	Mulher.***	NAS	44
285	46	Murtazapur.	AKO	241
[N]				
286	N 01	Nagardhan.***	NAG	253
287	02	Naladurg.***	USM	218

(Contd.)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
288	03	Naladurg.	THA	89
289	04	Nanded.	NAN	217
290	05	Nandgiri.	SAT	156
291	06	Nandos.	SIN	188
292	07	Nandurbar.	DHU	41
293	08	Narnala.***	AMR	204
294	09	Narayangad.	PUN	107
295	10	Narayangad.	SIN	183
296	11	Narkher.	NAG	207
297	12	Nashratpur.	NAS	67
298	13	Nhavi Killa.**	NAS	50
299	14	Nivati.	SIN	188

[O]

NIL

[P]

300	P	01	Pabar.	AHM	107
301		02	Padmagad.	SIN	189
302		03	Pal.	JAM	199
303		04	Palasgad.	THA	89
304		05	Palgad.	RAT	150
305		06	Palashi.	SAN	260
306		07	Pan Buruz.	THA	94
307		08	Pandavgad.**	SAT	150
308		09	Panhala.**	KOL	169
309		10	Pargad.	KOL	183
310		11	Parkot.	RAT	144
311		12	Parinda.	USM	263
312		13	Parola.**	JAM	237
313		14	Parsik.	THA	100
314		15	Partabgad.	BHA	210
315		16	Parwadi.	PUN	258
316		17	Patheri.	PAR	256

(Contd.)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
317	18	Patta.	AHM	85
318	19	Pauni.*	BHA	245
319	20	Pavangad.	KOL	172
320	21	Peb.	RAI	115
321	22	Pedgaum.	AHM	239
322	23	Pemgiri.	AHM	108
323	24	Phardapur.	AUR	244
324	25	Phonda.	SIN	184
325	26	Phutaka Buruz.	THA	94
326	27	Pimpalner.	DHU	51
327	28	Pisol.	NAS	51
328	29	Prabalgad.**	RAI	116
329	30	Prachitgad.**	RAT	162
330	31	Prachitgad.	SIN	184
331	32	Pratapgad.**	SAT	146
332	33	Purandar.***	PUN	231
333	34	Purnagad.	RAT	168

[Q]

NIL

[R]

334	R	01	Raigad.***	RAI	132
335		02	Rajapur.	RAT	176
336		03	Raipur.	DHU	52
337		04	Rajdher.	NAS	63
338		05	Rajgad.**	PUN	136
339		06	Rajgoli	KOL	221
340		07	Rajkot.	SIN	189
341		08	Rajura.	CHA	215
342		09	Ramgad.	SIN	190
343		10	Ramgad.	DHU	56
344		11	Ramsej.***	NAS	74
345		12	Ramtek.	NAG	253

(Contd.)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
346	13	Rangana.**	SIN	177
347	14	Randhiv.	SAN	166
348	15	Rajangaum.	PUN	259
349	16	Rasalgad.	RAT	151
350	17	Ratangad.	AHM	86
351	18	Ratangad.	RAI	129
352	19	Ratnagiri.**	RAT	167
353	20	Raver.	JAM	199
354	21	Rawlya.	NAS	64
355	22	Revdanda.***	RAI	130
356	23	Rohida.**	PUN	151
357	24	Rohilgad.	JAL	251
[S]				
358	S 01	Sadishvagad.**	SAT	226
359	02	Sagargad.	RAI	130
360	03	Saitonda.	AUR	244
361	04	Sajjangad.**	SAT	156
362	05	Sakri.	DHU	57
363	06	Salher.***	NAS	45
364	07	Salota.***	NAS	52
365	08	Samangad.	KOL	222
366	09	Samkshi.	RAI	131
367	10	Sangli.	SAN	223
368	11	Sanjan.	THA	80
369	12	Santoshgad.**	SAT	229
370	13	Sarasgad.**	RAI	116
371	14	Sarjekot.	SIN	190
372	15	Satara.**	SAT	153
373	16	Sathavli.	RAT	168
374	17	Savda.	JAM	200
375	18	Sawantwadi.	SIN	185
376	19	Sawargaum.	NAG	254

(Contd.)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
377	20	Sewri.	BOM	120
378	21	Shahada.	DHU	43
379	22	Shahagad.	AUR	244
380	23	Shegwa.	NAS	75
381	24	Shirgaum.	THA	93
382	25	Shirpur.	AKO	241
383	26	Shirval.	SAT	152
384	27	Shivgad.	KOL	185
385	28	Shivaneri.***	PUN	103
386	29	Shrivardhan.	RAI	144
387	30	Shrivardhan.**	PUN	117
388	31	Sidgad.	SIN	190
389	32	Sidhagad.	THA	90
390	33	Sindkhed.	BUL	248
391	34	Sindhudurg.***	SIN	186
	35	Deleted.		
392	36	Singhgad.**	PUN	137
393	37	Sion.	BOM	120
394	38	Sironcha.	GAD	213
395	39	Sitabaldi.	NAG	254
396	40	Solapur.***	SOL	218
397	41	Songad.	AHM	239
398	42	Sonegaum.	WAR	264
399	43	Songir.**	DHU	57
400	44	Songir.	RAI	117
401	45	Sumargad.	RAT	152
402	46	Surgad.	RAI	138
403	47	Surjagad.	GAD	212
404	48	Suvarnadurg.**	RAT	145
[T]				
405	T 01	Takmak.	THA	100
406	02	Tamkicha Buruz.	THA	94
407	03	Talegad.**	RAI	138

(Contd.)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
408	04	Taloda.	DHU	44
409	05	Tambhurni.	SOL	262
410	06	Tambolya.	NAS	53
411	07	Tandulwadi.	THA	94
412	08	Tankai.	NAS	68
413	09	Tarapur.	THA	81
414	10	Tarkhed.	DHU	194
415	11	Thalner.	DHU	195
416	12	Thane.	THA	100
417	13	Tipagad.	GAD	211
418	14	Tikona.**	PUN	118
419	15	Toranmal.	DHU	193
420	16	Torna.**	PUN	139
421	17	Trimbak.**	NAS	69
422	18	Tringalwadi.	NAS	75
423	19	Tung.**	PUN	118
424	20	Tungar.	THA	101
425	21	Tungi.	RAI	119
426	22	Tungi.*	NAS	53
[U]				
427	U 01	Umbargaum.	THA	81
428	02	Udgir.**	LAT	217
429	03	Umred.	NAG	255
430	04	Underi.	RAI	131
431	05	Usrani.	THA	101
[V]				
432	V 01	Vaghera.	NAS	76
433	02	Vairatgad.**	SAT	157
434	03	Vaishakhgad.	JAM	198
435	04	Vandan.**	SAT	157
436	05	Varangaum.*	JAM	200
437	06	Vardhangad.**	SAT	158

(Contd.)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
438	07	Varugad.**	SAT	229
439	08	Vasai.**	THA	95
440	09	Vasantgad.	SAT	225
441	10	Vasota.**	SAT	158
442	11	Vazirgad.	THA	102
443	12	Vengurla.	SIN	191
444	13	Versova.	BOM	120
445	14	Vetalgad.	SIN	191
446	15	Vajaydurg.**	RAT	174
447	16	Vijaygad.	RAT	162
448	17	Vinchur.	NAS	68
449	18	Virthan.	THA	102
450	19	Visapur.***	PUN	119
451	20	Vishalgad.**	KOL	173
452	21	Vishalgad.	RAI	120
[W]				
453	W 01	Wadgaum.	BIR	247
454	02	Wadgaum Nimbalkar.	PUN	230
455	03	Wadgaum Madha.	AHM	240
456	04	Wairagad.	GAD	211
457	05	Wajragad.	PUN	232
458	06	Wathar.	SAT	230
459	07	Worli.	BOM	120
[X]				
NIL				
[Y]				
460	Y 01	Yaval.	JAM	198
461	02	Yadwan.	THA	94
462	03	Yeshwantgad.	RAT	176
463	04	Yeshwantgad.	SIN	192
[Z]				
NIL				

APPENDIX 'B'

DISTRICT-WISE LIST OF FORTS.

The layout of the list is as follows :

The name of the district is given at the top in block capitals.

- The columns are
1. Serial Number.
 2. Name of the Fort.
 3. Alphabetical Number. The Alphabet Letter is omitted.
 4. The Cluster/Line/Box in which the Fort has been included.

Abbreviations used are the same as given at the beginning of Chapter VI.

AHMADNAGAR

01	Ahmadnagar.	08	WL
02	Bhanas Hivre.	27	WL
03	Bitangad.	45	Alang Cluster (Abbreviated to Cl)
04	Ekadara.	01	Box
05	Harishchandragad.	04	Shivneri Cl.
06	Jamgaum.	05	WL
07	Khorda.	39	Box
08	Kunjalgad.	56	Shivneri Cl.
09	Pabar.	01	Shivneri Cl.
10	Patta.	18	Alang Cl.
11	Pedgaum.	22	Box
12	Pemgiri.	23	Shivneri Cl.
13	Ratangad.	18	Alang Cl.
14	Songad.	41	Box
15	Wadgaum Madha.	03	Box

AKOLA

01	Adgaum.	05	NL
02	Akola.	13	NL
03	Balapur.	09	NL
04	Murtazapur.	46	Box
05	Sirpur.	25	Box

AMRAVATI

01	Achalpur.	03	NL
02	Amner.	21	NL
03	Badnera.	01	Box
04	Dharni.	20	NL
05	Gawilgad.	06	NL
06	Narnala	08	NL

AURANGABAD

01	Abhasgad.	01	Box
02	Antur.	26	WL
03	Assaye.	30	Box
04	Baitalwadi.	08	Box
05	Bhandargad.	30	Box
06	Deogiri.	08	WL
07	Dudmal.	27	Box
08	Phrdapur.	24	Box
09	Saitonda.	03	Box
10	Shahagad.	22	Box

BHANDARA

01	Ambagad.	18	NL
02	Bhandara.	28	Box
03	Chandpur.	07	NL
04	Chinchgad.	17	EL
05	Kajagad.	04	EL
06	Kamtha.	13	NL
07	Partabgad.	15	EL
08	Pauni	19	Box

BIR

01	Adas.	04	Box
02	Dharur.	21	Box
03	Kada.	02	Box
04	Wadgaum.	01	Box

BOMBAY

01	Bombay	47	Bombay Cl.
02	Elephanta.	02	Bombay Cl.
03	Mahim.	09	Bombay Cl.
04	Mazgaum.	40	Bombay Cl.
05	Sewri	20	Bombay Cl.
06	Sion.	37	Bombay Cl.

07 Versova.

13 Bombay Cl.

08 Worli.

07 Bombay Cl.

BULDHANA

01 Fattekheada

01 Box

02 Malkapur.

18 NL

03 Sindhkhedraja

34 Box

CHANDRAPUR

01 Ballalpur

11 SL

02 Chandrapur

09 SL

03 Chimur

16 Box

04 Khatoda.

42 Box

05 Mankigad.

28 SL

06 Rajura.

08 SL

DHULE

01 Akhrani

11 NL

02 Betavad.

20 Box

03 Bhamer.

25 Nandurar Cl.

04 Dermal.

10 Mulher Cl.

05 Dhadgaum.

15 NL

06 Dhule.

23 Laling Cl.

07 Dondwada.

24 NL

08 Dusana.

28 Nandurbar Cl.

09 Ghanora.

07 NL

10 Khanapur.

36 Nandurbar Cl.

11 Khoparli.

49 Nandurbar Cl.

12 Laling.

01 Laling Cl.

13 Nandurbar.

07 Nandurbar Cl.

14 Pimpalner.

27 Mulher Cl.

15 Raipur.

02 Mulher Cl.

16 Ramgad.

10 Laling Cl.

17 Sakri.

05 Laling Cl.

18 Shahada.

21 Nandurbar Cl.

19 Songir.

43 Laling Cl.

20 Taloda.

04 Nandurbar Cl.

21 Tarkhed.

10 NL

22 Thalner.

11 NL

23 Toranmal.

15 NL

GADCHIROLI

01 Bhamragad.

26 EL

02 Sironcha.

38 EL

- 03 Surjagad.
04 Tipagad.
05 Wairagad.

- 47 EL
14 EL
04 EL

JALNA

- 01 Jalna.
02 Rohilgad.

- 02 Box
24 Box

JALGAUM

- 01 Amalner.
02 Bodvad.
03 Chandgad.
04 Chaugaum.
05 Chopda.
06 Dehra.
07 Jamner.
08 Khandargad.
09 Lasur.
10 Pal.
11 Parola.
12 Raver.
13 Savda.
14 Vaishakagad.
15 Varangaum.
16 Yaval.

- 17 NL
46 NL
06 NL
14 NL
19 NL
07 Ankali Cl.
06 Box
37 NL
03 NL
03 NL
13 WL
20 NL
17 NL
03 NL
05 NL
01 NL

KOLHAPUR

- 01 Ajare.
02 Bavda.
03 Bhudargad.
04 Chandgad.
05 Gadahinglaz.
06 Gandharavagad.
07 Kagal.
08 Kalanidhigad.
09 Machal.
10 Mahipalgad.
11 Panhala.
12 Pargad.
13 Pavangad.
14 Rajgoli.
15 Samangad.
16 Shivgad.
17 Vishalgad.

- 09 Rangna Cl.
17 Panhala Cl.
41 Rangna Cl.
05 Rangna Cl.
01 WL
04 WL
03 Panhala Cl.
07 Rangna Cl.
01 Panhala Cl.
13 WL
09 Panhala Cl.
10 Rangna Cl.
20 Panhala Cl.
06 WL
08 WL
27 Rangna Cl.
20 Panhala Cl.

LATUR

01	Ausa.	31	Box
02	Udgir.	02	SL

NAGPUR

01	Bhimgad.	35	NL
02	Hingana.	09	Box
03	Jallakheda.	03	NL
04	Katol.	29	Box
05	Nagardhan.	01	Box
06	Narkher.	11	NL
07	Ramtek.	07	Box
08	Sawargaum.	19	Box
09	Sitabaldi.	39	Box
10	Umred.	03	Box

NANDED

01	Khandhar.	21	Box
02	Mahur.	17	SL
03	Nanded.	04	SL

NASIK

01	Achala.	02	Chandavd Cl.
02	Ahiwant.	07	Chandvad Cl.
03	Alang.	14	Alang Cl.
04	Anjaneri	23	Trimbak Cl.
05	Ankai.	25	Ankai Cl.
06	Avandha.	34	Alang Cl.
07	Bahula.	07	Trimbak Cl.
08	Bhaskargad.	32	Alang Cl.
09	Bhorgad.	40	Trimbak Cl.
10	Borale.	48	Ankai Cl.
11	Chandvad.	10	Chandvad Cl.
12	Chauler.	13	Mulher Cl.
13	Dhamnya.	17	Mulher Cl.
14	Dhodap.	22	Chandvad Cl.
15	Galna.	02	Laling Cl.
16	Ghargad.	07	Trimbk
17	Hanumangad.	02	Mulher
18	Harshgad.	05	Trimbak Cl.
19	Hatgad.	06	Mulher Cl.
20	Indrai.	02	Chandvad Cl.
21	Jawlya.	07	Chandvad Cl.

- 22 Kachan.
- 23 Kanchana.
- 24 Kankrala.
- 25 Kanhera.
- 26 Kankadri.
- 27 Kanvai.
- 28 Karhe.
- 29 Khatgad.
- 30 Koldher.
- 31 Kulang.
- 32 Lasalgaum.
- 33 Madangad.
- 34 Malegaum.
- 35 Mangi.
- 36 Manikpunj.
- 37 Markandya.
- 38 Mulher.
- 39 Nashratpur.
- 40 Nhavi Killa.
- 41 Pisol.
- 42 Rajdher.
- 43 Ramsej.
- 44 Rawlya.
- 45 Salher.
- 46 Salota.
- 47 Shewga.
- 48 Tambolya.
- 49 Tankai.
- 50 Trimbak.
- 51 Tringalwadi.
- 52 Tungi.
- 53 Vaghera.
- 54 Vinchur.

PARBHANI

- 01 Jintur.
- 02 Patheri.

PUNE

- 01 Ambi Khurd.
- 02 Andhalgaum.
- 03 Baramati.

- 01 Mulher
- 14 Chandvad Cl.
- 15 Laling Cl.
- 17 Chandvad Cl.
- 19 Ankai Cl.
- 23 Trimbak Cl.
- 26 Mulher Cl.
- 41 Trimbak Cl.
- 47 Chandvad Cl.
- 54 Alang Cl.
- 02 Ankai Cl.
- 03 Alang Cl.
- 21 Laling Cl.
- 27 Mulher Cl.
- 30 Ankai Cl.
- 36 Chandvad Cl.
- 45 Mulher Cl.
- 12 Ankai Cl.
- 13 Mulher Cl.
- 28 Mulher Cl.
- 04 Chandvad Cl.
- 11 Trimbak Cl.
- 21 Chandvad Cl.
- 06 Mulher Cl.
- 07 Mulher Cl.
- 23 Trimbak Cl.
- 06 Mulher
- 08 Ankai Cl.
- 17 Trimbak Cl.
- 18 Trimbak Cl.
- 22 Mulher Cl.
- 01 Trimbak Cl.
- 17 Ankai Cl.

- 12 Box
- 17 Box

- 19 WL
- 22 Box
- 15 Box

04	Chakan.
05	Chavand.
06	Daulatmangal.
07	Dangad.
08	Hadsar.
09	Indori.
10	Jivdhan.
11	Junnar.
12	Kauthe.
13	Kumwarigad.
14	Lohgad.
15	Loni Bhapkar.
16	Mallhargad.
17	Manaranjan.
18	Mathan.
19	Medad.
20	Mohangad.
21	Narayangad.
22	Parwadi.
23	Purandar.
24	Rajgad.
25	Ranjangaum.
26	Rohida.
27	Shivneri.
28	Shrivardhan.
29	Singhgad.
30	Tikona.
31	Torna.
32	Tung.
33	Vsiapur.
34	Wadgaum Nimbalkar.
35	Wajragad.

01	WL
15	Shivneri Cl.
06	WL
18	Lohgad Cl.
01	Shivneri Cl.
03	Lohgad Cl.
10	Shivneri Cl.
13	Shivneri Cl.
31	WL
55	Lohgad Cl.
05	Lohgad Cl.
06	WL
22	WL
34	Lohgad Cl.
39	Box
41	Box
43	Pratapgad Cl.
09	Shivneri Cl.
16	Box
33	WL
05	Raigad Cl.
15	Box
23	Pratapgad Cl.
09	Shivneri Cl.
30	Lohgad Cl.
36	Raigad Cl.
13	Lohgad Cl.
16	Raigad Cl.
19	Lohgad Cl.
19	Lohgad.
02	WL
04	WL

RAIGAD

01	Alibag.
02	Avchitgad.
03	Belapur.
04	Bhivgad.
05	Bhorap.
06	Bhupalgad.
07	Birwadi.
08	Chambhargad.

15	Kulaba Cl.
33	Kulaba Cl.
19	Lohgad Cl.
36	Lohgad Cl.
39	Lohgad Cl.
42	Raigad Cl.
44	Kulaba Cl.
02	Raigad Cl.

09 Chanderi.
 10 Chandragad.
 11 Chaul.
 12 Danda Rajpuri.
 13 Dhak.
 14 Devgad.
 15 Drongiri.
 16 Ghosalgad.
 17 Hindola.
 18 Janjira.
 19 Kamsgad.
 20 Kangori.
 21 Karanja.
 22 Karnala.
 23 Kaula.
 24 Khanderi.
 25 Khubhladha.
 26 Korlai.
 27 Kothilgad.
 28 Kulaba.
 29. Kurdugad.
 30 Lingana.
 31 Madgad.
 32 Malang-gad.
 33. Mangad.
 34 Manikgad.
 35 Manaranjan.
 36 Peb.
 37 Prabalgad.
 38 Raigad.
 39 Ratangad.
 40 Revdanda.
 41 Sagargad.
 42 Samkshi.
 43 Sarasgad.
 44 Shrivardhan.
 45 Songiri.
 46 Surgad.
 47 Talegad.
 48 Tungi.
 49 Underi.
 50 Vishalgad.

04 Lohgad Cl.
 08 Pratapgad Cl.
 12 Kulaba Cl.
 03 Bankot Cl.
 16 Lohgad Cl.
 12 Bankot Cl.
 25 Kulaba Cl.
 10 Kulaba Cl.
 08 Raigad Cl.
 07 Kulaba Cl.
 16 Kulaba Cl.
 22 Raigad Cl.
 25 Kulaba Cl.
 28 Kulaba Cl.
 30 Raigad Cl.
 38 Kulaba Cl.
 44 Kulaba Cl.
 50 Kulaba Cl.
 51 Lohgad Cl.
 53 Kulaba Cl.
 57 Raigad Cl.
 04 Raigad Cl.
 04 Bankot Cl.
 19 Lohgad Cl.
 25 Raigad Cl.
 29 Lohgad Cl.
 33 Kulaba Cl.
 21 Lohgad Cl.
 29 Lohgad Cl.
 01 Raigad Cl.
 17 Kulaba Cl.
 22 Kulaba Cl.
 02 Kulaba Cl.
 09 Kulaba Cl.
 13 Lohgad Cl.
 29 Bankot Cl.
 44 Lohgad Cl.
 46 Raigad Cl.
 03 Raigad Cl.
 21 Lohgad Cl.
 04 Kulaba Cl.
 21 Kulaba Cl.

RATNAGIRI

- 01 Ambolgad.
- 02 Anjanvel.
- 03 Bankot.
- 04 Bhairavgad.
- 05 Bhavangad.
- 06 Devrukh.
- 07 Dabhol.
- 08 Fattegad.
- 09 Govagad.
- 10 Govalkot.
- 11 Jaigad.
- 12 Jamba.
- 13 Kanakdurg.
- 14 Khare Patan.
- 15 Mahimangad.
- 16 Mahipatgad.
- 17 Madangad.
- 18 Palgad.
- 19 Parkot.
- 20 Prachitgad.
- 21 Purngad.
- 22 Rajapur.
- 23 Rasalgad.
- 24 Ratnagiri.
- 25 Sarjekot.
- 26 Sathavli.
- 27 Sumargad.
- 28 Suvarnadurg.
- 29 Vijaydurg.
- 30 Vijaygad.
- 31 Yeshwantgad.

- 20 Vijaygad Cl.
- 24 Anjanvel Cl.
- 14 Bankot Cl.
- 22 Anjanvel Cl.
- 34 Pratapgad Cl.
- 13 Pratapgad Cl.
- 14 Anjanvel Cl.
- 02 Bankot Cl.
- 12 Bankot Cl.
- 13 Anjanvel Cl.
- 01 Anjanvel Cl.
- 04 Bankot Cl.
- 20 Bankot Cl.
- 40 Vijaydurg Cl.
- 11 Pratapgad Cl.
- 14 Pratapgad Cl.
- 24 Bankot Cl.
- 05 Pratapgad Cl.
- 11 Bankot Cl.
- 30 Pratapgad Cl.
- 34 Ratnagiri Cl.
- 03 Vijaydurg Cl.
- 16 Pratapgad Cl.
- 19 Ratnagiri Cl.
- 14 Sindhudurg Cl.
- 16 Ratnagiri Cl.
- 45 Pratapgad Cl.
- 48 Bankot Cl.
- 15 Vijaydurg Cl.
- 16 Anjanvel Cl.
- 03 Vijaydurg Cl.

SANGLI

- 01 Bagni
- 02 Bahadurwadi.
- 03 Bahem.
- 04 Bahirgad.
- 05 Bhopalgad.
- 06 Borgaum.
- 07 Ganeshdurg.
- 08 Machindragad.

- 02 Panhala Cl.
- 03 Panhala Cl.
- 04 Panhala Cl.
- 06 Pratapgad Cl.
- 37 Box
- 49 WL
- 05 WL
- 02 WL

- 09 Miraj.
- 10 Palshi.
- 11 Randhiv.
- 12 Sangli.

- 42 SL
- 06 Box
- 14 Pratapgad Cl.
- 10 WL

SATARA

- 01 Aundh.
- 02 Bavdhan.
- 03 Bahiravgad.
- 04 Bhushangad.
- 05 Chandan.
- 06 Dategad.
- 07 Gunwantgad.
- 08 Hevlak.
- 09 Jangli Jaygad.
- 10 Kamalgad.
- 11 Kamalgad.
- 12 Karad.
- 13 Kenjalgad.
- 14 Kole.
- 15 Mahimangad.
- 16 Mahimangad.
- 17 Makarandgad.
- 18 Malavdi.
- 19 Masur.
- 20 Nandgiri.
- 21 Pandavgad.
- 22 Pratapgad.
- 23 Sadashivgad.
- 24 Sajjangad.
- 25 Santoshgad.
- 26 Satara.
- 27 Shirval.
- 28 Vairatgad.
- 29 Vandan.
- 30 Vardhangad.
- 31 Varugad.
- 32 Vasantgad.
- 33 Vasota.
- 34 Wathar.

- 32 WL
- 18 Satara Cl.
- 24 Pratapgad Cl.
- 43 WL
- 03 Satara Cl.
- 04 Pratapgad Cl.
- 15 Pratapgad Cl.
- 07 Pratapgad Cl.
- 08 Satara Cl.
- 09 Pratapgad Cl.
- 10 Satara Cl.
- 24 WL
- 35 Pratapgad Cl.
- 48 WL
- 12 Pratapgad Cl.
- 10 WL
- 15 Pratapgad Cl.
- 20 WL
- 37 WL
- 05 Satara Cl.
- 08 Pratapgad Cl.
- 32 Pratapgad Cl.
- 01 WL
- 04 Satara Cl.
- 12 WL
- 15 Satara Cl.
- 26 Pratapgad Cl.
- 02 Satara Cl.
- 04 Satara Cl.
- 06 Satara Cl.
- 07 WL
- 09 WL
- 10 Satara Cl.
- 06 WL

SINDHUDURG

01	Akeri.	10	Rangna Cl.
02	Avre.	35	Rangna Cl.
03	Banda.	13	Rangna Cl.
04	Bhagwantgad.	21	Sindhudurg Cl.
05	Bhairavgad.	23	Rangna Cl.
07	Bharatgad.	31	Sindhudurg Cl.
07A	Devgad	11	Vijaydurg Cl.
08	Hanumantgad.	03	Rangna Cl.
09	Kamtekot.	12	Vijaydurg Cl.
10	Kudal.	52	Sindhudurg Cl.
11	Mahadevgad.	07	Rangna Cl.
12	Manohargad.	31	Rangna Cl.
13	Manasantoshgad.	35	Rangna Cl.
14	Nandos.	06	Sindhudurg Cl.
15	Narayangad.	10	Rangna Cl.
16	Nivati.	14	Sindhudurg Cl.
17	Padmagad.	02	Sindhudurg Cl.
18	Phonda.	25	Rangna Cl.
19	Prachitgad.	31	Rangna Cl.
20	Rajkot.	07	Sindhudurg Cl.
21	Ramgad.	09	Sindhudurg Cl.
22	Rangna.	13	Rangna Cl.
22A	Sarjekot	14.	Sindhudurg Cl.
23	Sawantwadi.	18	Rangna Cl.
24	Sidgad.	31	Sindhudurg Cl.
25	Sindhudurg.	33	Sindhudurg Cl.
26	Vengural.	12	Sindhudurg Cl.
27	Vetalgad.	14	Sindhudurg Cl.
28	Yeshwantgad.	03	Sindhudurg Cl.

SOLAPUR

01	Akluz.	12	Box
02	Karmala.	27	Box
03	Madha.	05	Box
04	Manchur.	23	Box
05	Mangalvedha.	26	SL
06	Mohol.	44	SL
07	Solapur.	40	SL
08	Tambhurni.	05	SL

THANE

01	Agashi.	06	Vasai Cl.
02	Alibag.	15	Mahim Group.
03	Arnala.	27	Vasai Cl.
04	Asavagad.	28	Dahanu Cl.
05	Asheri.	29	Dahanu Cl.
06	Bahiravgad.	05	Shivneri Cl.
07	Ballalgad.	10	Dahanu Cl.
08	Balwantgad.	12	Alang Cl.
09	Basgad.	16	Trimbak Cl.
10	Bhandargad.	29	Mahuli Cl.
11	Bhavangad.	33	Mahim Cl.
12	Bhupatgad.	38	Trimbak Cl.
13	Chatale.	11	Mahim Group.
14	Chinchani.	18	Dahanu Cl.
15	Dahanu.	01	Dahanu Cl.
16	Dindu.	02	Dahanu Cl.
17	Danda.	2A	Mahim Group.
18	Dativre.	05	Vasai Cl.
19	Dharavi.	19	Vasai Cl.
20	Gambhargad.	03	Dahanu Cl.
21	Ghodbandar.	09	Vasai Cl.
22	Gorakhgad.	11	Mahuli Cl.
23	Gumtara.	14	Mahuli Cl.
24	Indragad.	01	Dahanu Cl.
25	Jivdhan.	11	Vasai Cl.
26	Kaladurg.	05	Mahim Cl.
27	Kalyan.	08	Mahuli Cl.
28	Kamandurg.	11	Vasai Cl.
29	Kanheri.	18	Vasai Cl.
30	Kelve.	33	Vasai Cl.
31	Khatale.	44	Mahim Group.
32	Kittal.	45	Mahim Group.
33	Kohaj.	46	Mahim Cl.
34	Madhala Buruz.	06	Mahim Group.
35	Mahim.	08	Mahim Cl.
36	Mahuli.	16	Mahuli Cl.
37	Manor.	32	Mahim Cl.
38	Mathane.	38	Mahim Cl.
39	Naladurg.	03	Mahuli Cl.
40	Palasgad.	04	Mahuli Cl.
41	Pan Buruz.	07	Mahim Group.

42 Parsik.
43 Phutka Buruz.
44 Sanjan.
45 Shirgaum.
46 Sidhgad.
47 Tamkicha Buruz.
48 Tandulwadi.
49 Takmak.
50 Tarapur.
51 Thane.
52 Tungar.
53 Umbargaum.
54 Usarni.
55 Vasai.
56 Vazirgad.
57 Virthan.
58 Yadwan.

USMANABAD

01 Naladurg.
02 Parinda.

WARDHA

01 Deoli.
02 Sonegaum.

YEAVATMAL

01 Drug.
02 Kalamb.
03 Kayar.
04 Kelapur.

14 Vasai Cl.
25 Mahim Group.
11 Mahanu Cl.
24 Mahim Cl.
32 Mahuli Cl.
02 Mahim Group.
07 Mahim Cl.
01 Vasai Cl.
09 Dahanu Cl.
12 Vasai Cl.
20 Box
01 Dahanu Cl.
05 Vasai Cl.
08 Vasai Cl.
11 Vasai Cl.
18 Vasai Cl.
04 Mahim Group.

02 SL
12 Box

09 Box
42 Box

26 Box
06 Box
32 SL
34 SL

APPENDIX 'C'

FORTS KNOWN BY MORE THAN ONE NAME

Many forts bore more than one name. Sometimes both were commonly used. At others the new names, given by the rulers conquering that fort, were soon forgotten. Shivaji renamed a large number of forts and the names have now been accepted and commonly used. On the other hand, names given by Aurangzeb were soon forgotten after his death.

The common name has been listed under column 2 and the alternate name in column 3 in Chapter VI where the descriptions are given. In this list the alternate name is listed first, alphabetically, in the first column and the common name in the second. The list is not exhaustive and only the better known names have been included.

Agarkot	Chaul	Ajinkyatara	Satara
Amarpur	Ausa	Aminabad	Sarasgad
Ambarpur	Ausa	Asadgad	Akola
Ashagad	Asava	Aundha	Avandha
Azimtara	Satara	Azamgarh	Satara
Argaon	Adgaum	Badraddin	Samkshi
Bahadurgad	Pedgaum	Bairamgad	Bhairavgad
Bassein	Vasai	Bajipur	Vasai
Bakshidabaksh	Singhgad	Behnor	Bhandara
Bhai Ramgad	Bhairavgad	Bhelanja	Kamalgad
Bhimgad	Shahagad	Bhorgad	Dehra
Bhujbal	Bhudargad	Bhuleshwar	Daulatmangal
Bijarnigad	Hanumangad	Brahmagad	Trimbak
Champavati	Jaigad	Chanderi	Chandrapur
Chandor	Chandvad	Chande	Chandrapur
Daulatabad	Deogiri	Durgadi	Kalyan
Devpur	Dhule	Dhargad	Ghargad
Dighwe	Pisol	Ellichpur	Achalpur
Fatahabad	Dharur	Fort Victoria	Bankot
Gadchandor	Manikgad	Gagangad	Bavda
Gahangad	Dhangad	Gaurkamat	Bhivgad
Gharapuri	Elephanta	Gheria	Vijaydurg
Gond-durg	Chandrapur	Gopalgad	Anjanvel
Hargad	Mulher	Harishgad	Harshgad

Harnai	Suvarnadurg	Hategad	Dategad
Himmatgad	Bankot	Hirakot	Thane
Hirakot	Alibag	Indragad	Indrai
Islamabad	Chakan	Islamabad	Raigad
Islamgad	Raigad	Jaffarabad	Narnala
Jaslodgad	Mohangad	Jaidurg	Underi
Jilpi	Amner	Jund	Chavand
Jinkhed	Vishalgad	Kala Killa	Dharavi
Kalyangad	Nandgiri	Kamtra	Kankadri
Kanhira	Kanhera	Kankadi	Kamkrala
Kantra	Kankadri	Kandos	Kankadri
Karanja	Drongiri	Kathingad	Tung
Kelpa	Galna	Ketaligad	Kothaligad
Khaladurg	Sagargad	Khelanja	Kenjalgad
Khelna	Vishalgad	Khorigad	Makarandgad
Khild i Fatah	Vasantgad	Kolther	Koldher
Kondana	Singhgad	Konj	Kohaj
Lokhandi Killa	Kajagad	Madangad	Kangori
Mahimangad	Mahimandangad	Mamchigad	Hanumantgad
Mangalgad	Kangori	Mastiwade	Mangad
Mayurgad	Mulher	Mayurkhindi	Markandya
Medha	Avachitgad	Mehar-ruba	Janjira
Miragad	Naladurg	Mominabad	Chakan
Morgad	Mulher	Moragad	Mulher
Morgiri	Gunwantgad	Murtazabad	Miraj
Mustaphabad	Chopda	Navapur	Khanpur
Navarastara	Sajjangad	Nandigad	Nandgiri
Patta	vishramgad	Padamdurg	Kamsa
Pali	Sarasgad	Parali	Sajjangad
Phutkublai	Torna	Prachandgad	Torna
Prassangad	Chavand	Palm Garden	Chaul
		Fort	
Rajdehra	Dehra	Rajkot	Chaul
Rajkot	Rajpur	Raikot	Raipur
Rajamachi	Manaranjan	Rajmachi	Shrivardhan
Rasalpur	Raver	Rairi	Raigad
Ramdurg	Ratnagiri	Ranla	Khoparli
Ratangad	Nhavi Killa	Reddi	Yeshwantgad
Rudramal	Wajragad	Shahanbigad	Raigad
Sakharlana	Vishalgad	Saleri/Salir	Salher
Sangramgad	Chakan	Sarp/Sepant	Ahiwant
		Fort	

Saranggad	Bhairavgad	Shahgad	Pemgiri
Shrigad	Trimbak	Soneri	Mallhargad
Subhanmangal	Shirval	Sudhagad	Bhorap
Sudargad	Dategad	Sutanda	Saitonda
Taliagad	Narnala	Thatvade	Santoshgad
Thal	Khubladha	Tilwan	Chauler
Uchitgad	Prachitgad	Vetalwadi	Baitalwadi
Vichitragad	Rohida	Vikatgad	Peb
Vikramgad	Chakan	Vinsai	Mangad
Vishramgad	Patta	Vitangad	Tikona
Vitangad	Kurdugad	Vyagrahgad	Vasota
Vakragad	Vasota		

Further search may well add more names.

APPENDIX 'D'

FORT NAMES NOT IDENTIFIED OR LOCATED WITH CERTAINTY

A large number of names appear in various historical narratives but it is not always possible to identify them with the extinct or extant forts as we know them today. In other cases the names are recognised as having been used at the time but their location or other details have not been found. In Shivaji Souvenir, for example, many names are given with the annotation "Bakhar ?"

It is quite possible that some of these forts were well recognised by other name(s) and that the link between the two is not clear or definitely established. I give below a representative list of such forts. If even forty of these forts can be identified then the number of the forts of Maharashtra will cross the 500 mark !

Adsargad, Aihilgad, Alibari, Alipur, Amargad, Ambolgad, Anji, Apkai¹, Arle, Ashti, Asvalgad, Atragad.

Bakhtagad, Ballamgad, Barasgad, Barugad, Bazargad, Belas, Bhagwati, Bhajgad, Bhangargad, Bhargavgad, Bhavalgad, Bhawani, Bhivapur, Bisla, Bisnur.

Chamund¹, Handankheda, Changad, Chaturgad, Charugad.

Dahihanda, Dahigad, De-iri-gad, Dhanora, Dholagad, Dhopeswar, Dhapgad².

Gadagad, Gajendragad, Gangagad, Ghumgaum, Gujdhare.

Hansgad, Harugad, Hatekeshwar, Hemandrigad, Hingani, Hivarkhed.

Irshal, Islampura.

Jagdevgad, Jannichadurg, Javlegad, Jajurgad.

Kadakada, Kadra, Kaidari, Kailasgad, Kalagad, Kapalgad, Karvas, Kathgad, Khadangle, Khirdurg, Kisalgaad, Khobgad, Kondavi, Konjava.

Localgad, Lonaajagad.

Madaner, Madhugad, Mahagad, Mhasgad, Mitragad.

Nasirabad.

Pachor, Pachangad, Painagad, Parsivni, Pavegad, Pradhangad, Pralhadgad.

Rajhangad, Ralagad, Rohangad, Rupgad.

Sabalgad, Sahajgad², Sakargad, Sujagad.

Tamhangad, Thakrigad, Torgad.

Vanagad, Vyankatgad.

Udaidurg.

1. Apkai is likely to be Tankai, Barugad-Varugad, Dhanora-Ghanora, Kondavi-Kondana, and so forth. If one can get some clue, *e.g.*, the name of the base village, it may be possible to locate some of these forts on Survey of India Maps
2. Many names denote the difficulty level of the fort. Here also some clue may enable identification and location.

APPENDIX 'E'

A NOTE ON BIBLIOGRAPHY

There is abundant literature on Maratha History and a few general remarks about the various works will not be out of place.

Prior to the ascendancy of the East India Company, Indian Historiographers were mainly Muslims. They normally relied upon their memory. The authenticity and veracity often left much to be desired and their accounts have been described as garbled and perverted. (1) In contrast it has been said that Maratha historians wrote in plain language and without bias.

The question of approach assumes even more significance in case of British authors. As Thompson and Garrat point out, (2) histories written in the late 18th century or very early in the 19th century, were fuller, franker and more interesting than later works where 'imperial bias' took a firm hold. Orme, Mill and Marshman are some of the authors who come under the first category. Orme's is a plain military account. James Mill very often criticises the East India Company. The other authors who can be read with profit are : Roberts, Ramsay Muir and H.H. Dodwell. Amongst Indian historians the pride of place must go to Sir Jadunath Sirkar. Surendra Nath Sen, Dr. Radhakumud Mukherjee and Prof. Nilkantha Shastri; all have made valuable contribution. The following books are particularly useful.

Garrat and Thompson : Rise and Fulfilment of British Rule in India.

A.K. Nairne : Konkan.

H.G. Rawlinson : Shivaji, The Maratta.

Kinkaid and Parasnis : History of the Maratha People.

Dennis Kinkaid : The Grand Rebel.

Innumerable other sources can be given where a great deal of material on Maratha history and the History of the Deccan will be found. The Gazetteers, the Records of the English Factories, Political and Military Department Diaries, The Deccan Commissioner's Correspondence, Report on the Peshwa's Territory by Elphiston, all are important in their own way. Many of these documents are available at the Poona Archives.

I come to Grant Duff's History of the Marattas at the end because it is still a classic. His work has many defects, of fact as well as of interpretation. But it is still a standard work. 'corrected' by research and writings of a great number of scholars, it cannot yet be superceded.

Amongst Indian authors in addition to those mentioned above, attention must be paid to Sardesai's New History of the Marathas, Beni Prasad's History of Jahangir, Benarsi Prasad Saxena's History of Shahjehan, Dr. Balakrishna's Shivaji, K.M. Pannikar's Survey of Indian History and many commemorative volumes.

Literature in Marathi also abounds. The various Bakhars, edited and/or translated by Banahatti, Kale and others are important source material. N.C. Kelkars *Marathe ani Ingraz*, Potdar's *Marathi Itihas va Aitihasik Samshodhan*, Sardesai's *Marathi Riyasat and Musalmani Riyasat* the numerous volumes of *Aitihasik Patra Sangrah*, *Bharatwarsh* and *Itihas Sangrah* are essential reading. In addition there are some Sanskrit and Persian works which are informative.

A special mention must be made of the bakhars and chronologies. The main ones that should be referred are: Sabhasad Bakhar (1697), Chitragupta (1759), *Ekyawan kalami* Bakhar (1780), *Prabhanwalli* (1798), Dadphale Yadi (1803), Malharrao Chitnis Bakhar (1810) *Maharashtra Samrajyachi Choti Bakhar* (1817), Nagpurkar Bhonsale Bakhar (1822), Sivapratap (1829), *Ramdas Shakavali* (1831), *Vijaydurg Shakavali* (1835), Panditrao Bakhar (1848), *Pant Pratinidhinchi Bakhar* (1844) and Shedgaonkar Bakhar (1854) are all important to a greater or lesser extent. As a result of the availability of material in these sources, many of the inaccuracies have been removed. For example, much re-thinking was necessary regarding Shivaji's birth date due to the late discovery of such important sources as Shivabharat (1674), Rajyabhishek Shakaval (1674) and the Jedhe Shakavali (1697). All have been translated into English.

Then there are numerous journals which can be referred to with much profit. Amongst the important ones are: *Epigraphica Indica*, *Indian Historical quarterly*, *Journal of The Royal Asiatic Society*, *Journal of the Bombay Historical Society*, *Bulletin of the Deccan College Research Institute* and the *New Indian Antiquary*.

Inspite of this vast amount of literature, it is surprising to note that there is almost no primary source material dealing specifically with the forts of Maharashtra. In the many narrative histories, forts get mentioned merely as places where certain events took place. There is no attempt to describe these forts in detail, to examine their role or to analyse why certain events took place at certain forts only and no where else. Grant

Duff's three volumes, for example, dismisses Torna in a few lines and Purandar and Vishalgad fare no better.

The literature on forts is very limited. There is no single volume listing of all the forts of Maharashtra. As mentioned earlier the emphasis is on Maratha forts only. A major source for information on forts are the Gazetteers :

The Imperial Gazetteer of India.

The Gazetteers of the Bombay Presedency, Khandesh, Konkan and Southern Maratha Country, and Nizam's Territories. These were all compiled in the 19th century and the name of Campbell is associated with most of them.

Gazetteers of India, Maharashtra State, with volumes covering all the Districts. These were the latest, written from 1952 onwards.

But even in the Gazetteers many forts are not listed at all, and except for the important ones, the description is most sketchy. The locations are not given with reference to latitude and longitude and very often one finds a single line—no historical information is available,—or words to this effect.

Amongst the books specifically written about the forts, the following merit attention.

Gogte, *Maharashtratil Kille*, two volumes.

P.N. Joshi, *Maharashtrachi Dharatirtha*.

A. Palande, *Avhan*, and *Giridurgachya Paharyatun*.

Bendre, *Gad, Kot, Durg and Tyanchi Vastu*.

Avlaskar, *Raigadachi Jeevangatha*.

Ramdas, *Maharashtratil Jaladurg*.

Ghanekar, *Jaladurganchya Sahavasatun*, and *Sad Sahyadrichi, Bhatakanti Killyanchi*.

Sidney Toy, *Strongholds of India*.

Kapadia, *Trek the Sahyadris*.

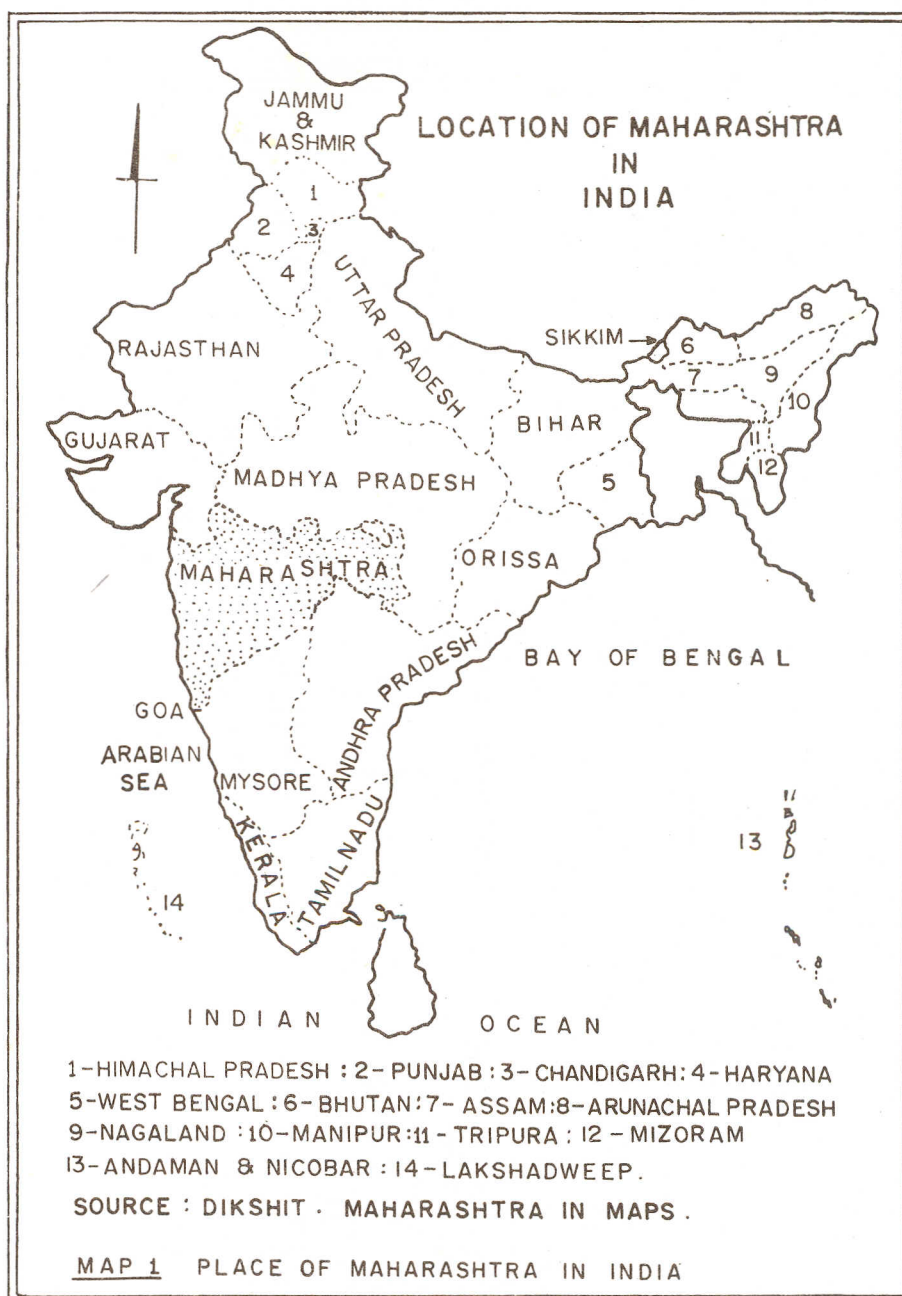
Dandekar, *Kille*, and *Durg Brhamangatha*.

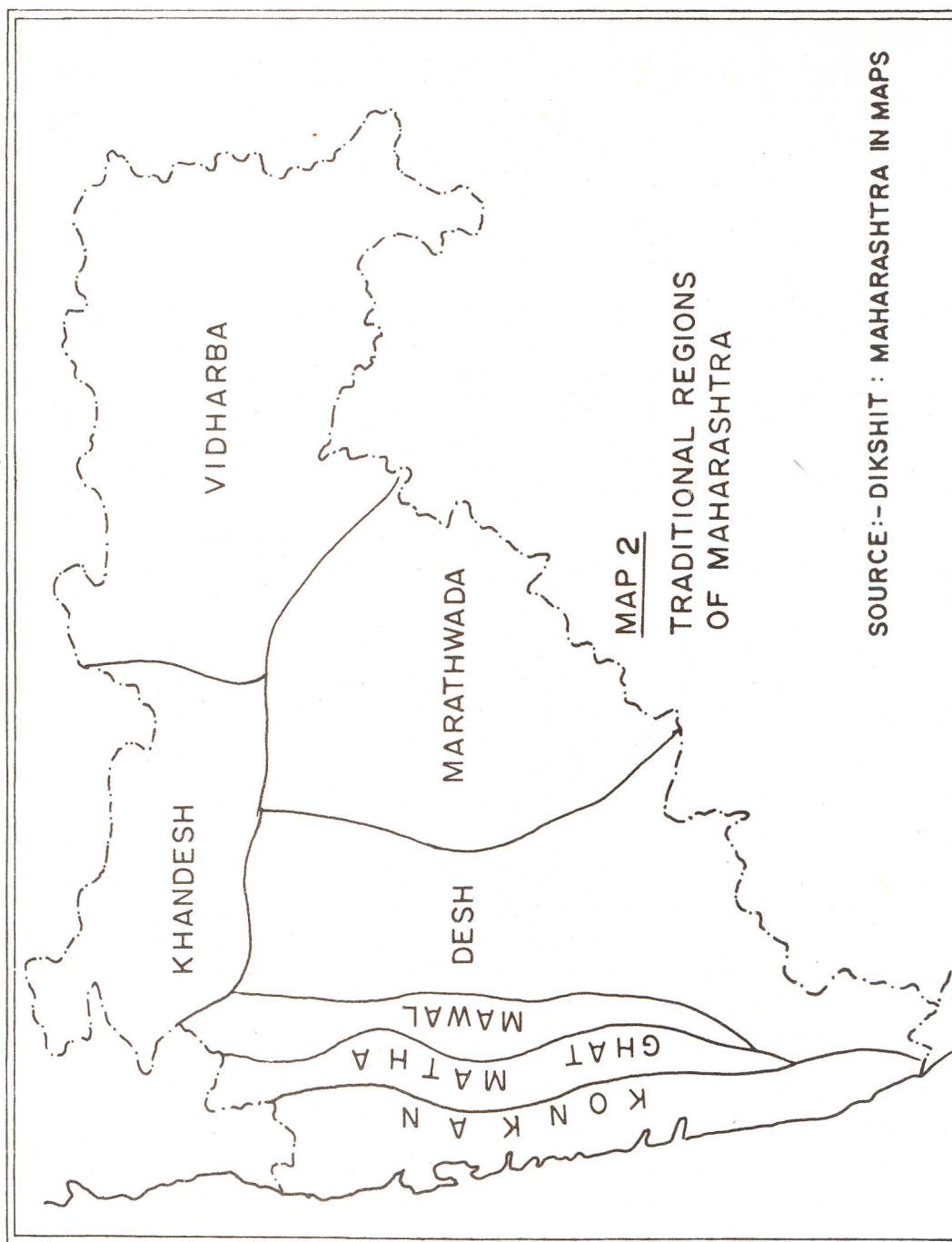
Good as these sources are, all of them suffer from one or more of the following weaknesses at least to some degree.

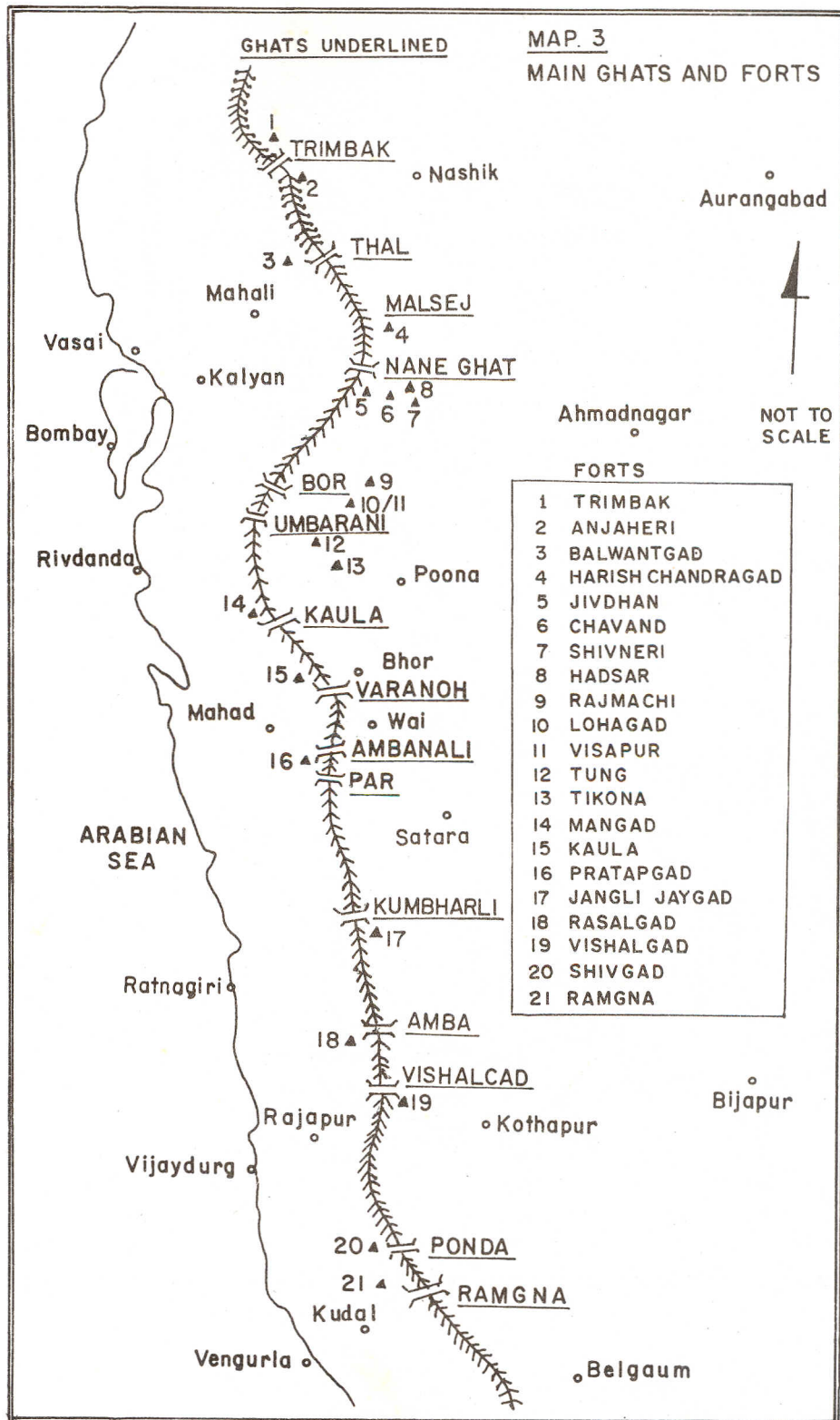
- (a) The listing does not cover the whole of Maharashtra.
- (b) Many times, the narrative is more travelogue than history.
- (c) Descriptions are not systematised and locations are not given, or given accurately.

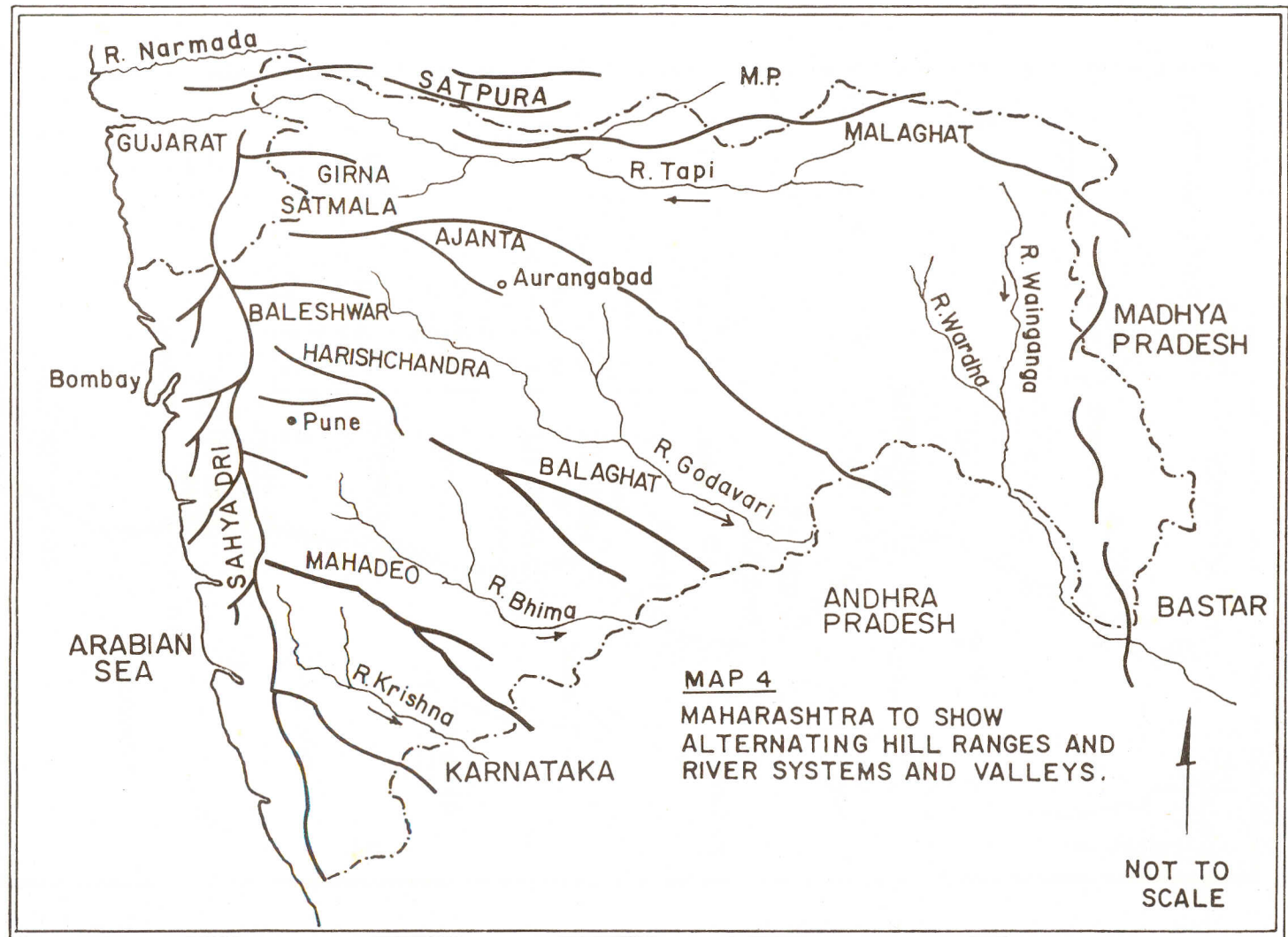
- (d) And perhaps the most important, the impact of forts on the political and military affairs of the State is not given adequate attention.

It will thus be seen that there is no comprehensive work covering all aspects of the forts of Maharashtra and presented in one volume with photographs and illustrations.



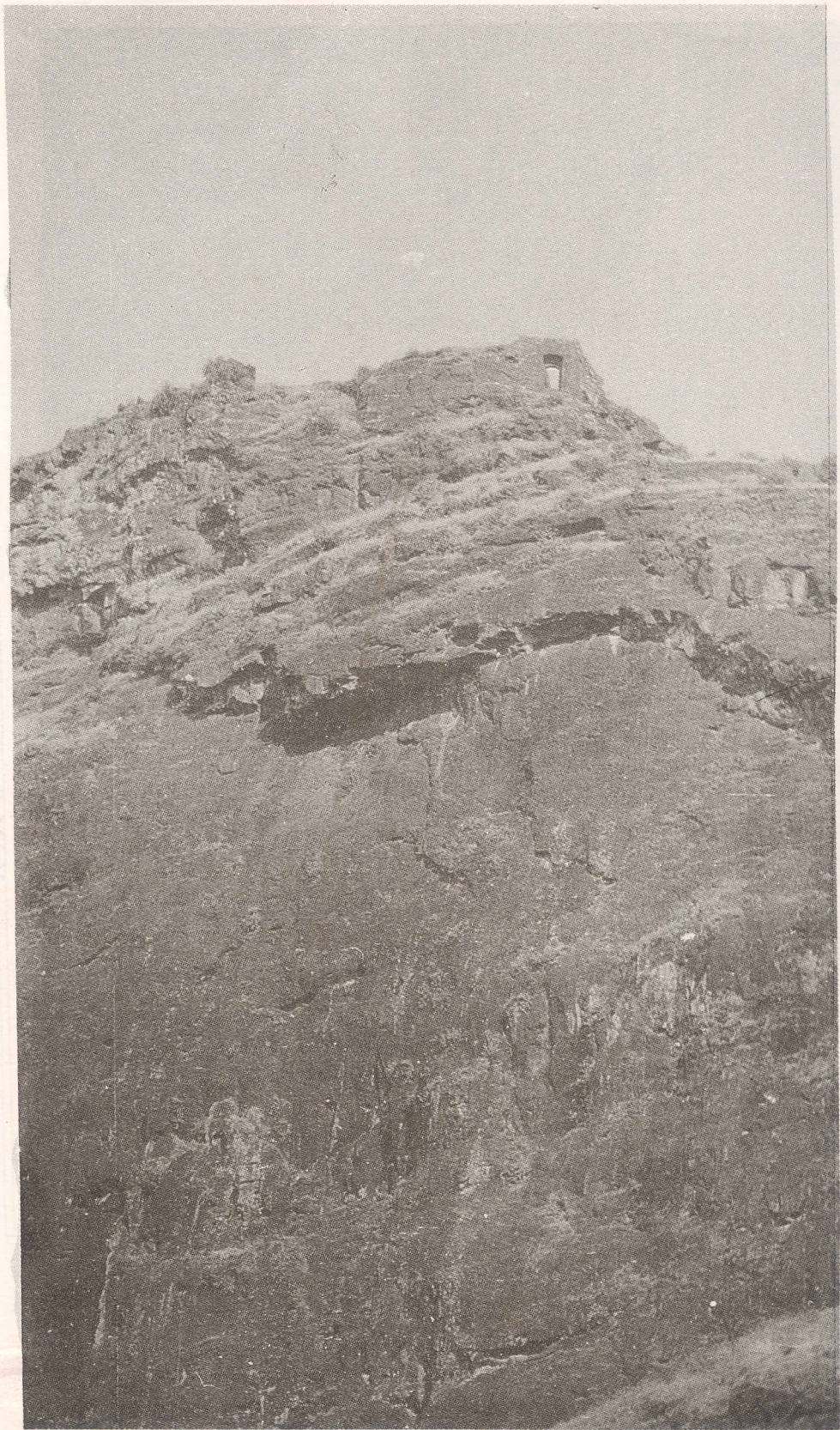








1(a) Mulher Fort.



1(b) Mulher Fort.



Salher and Salota



Hatgad



Mangi-Tungi



Laling



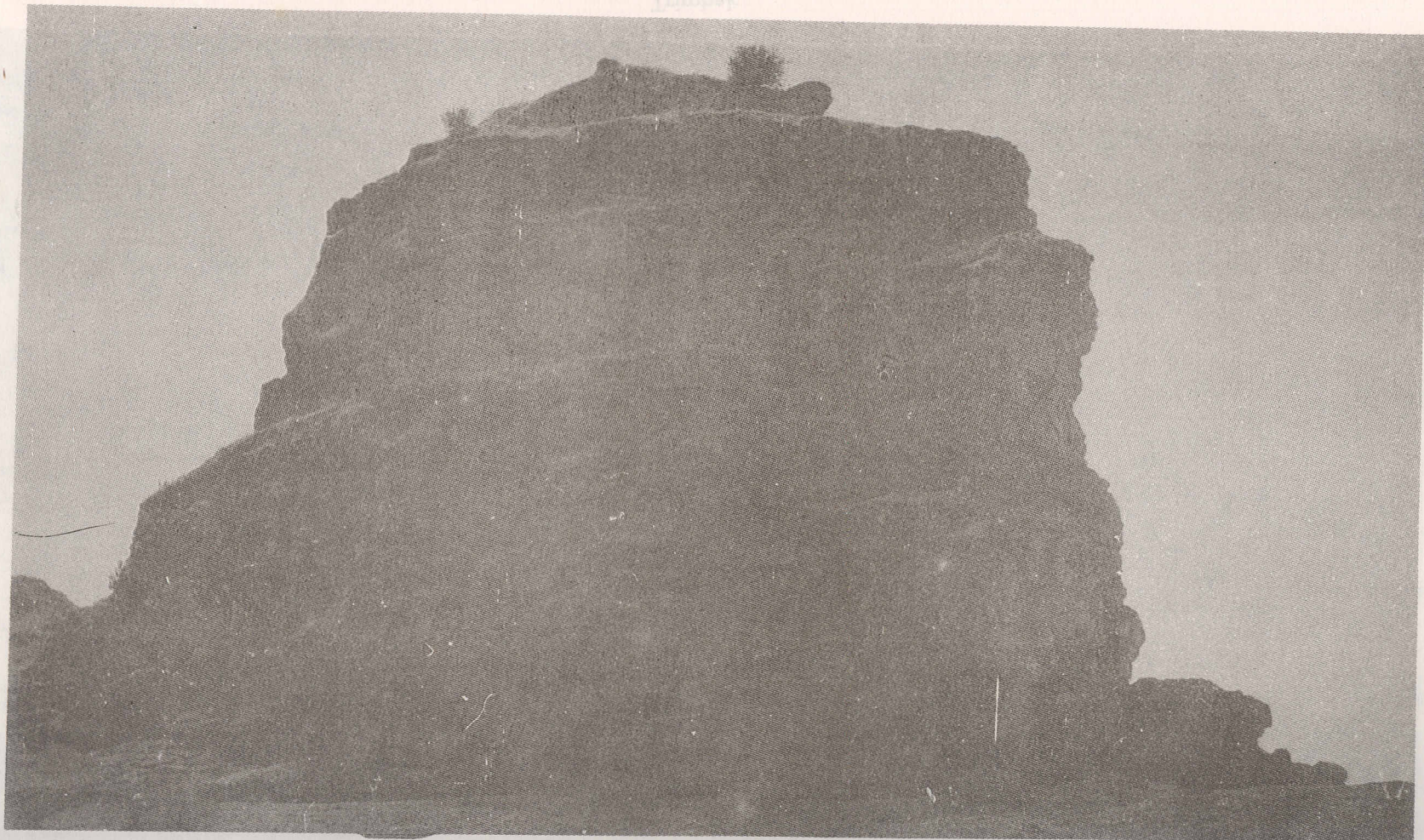
Chandvad



Markandya



Trimbak



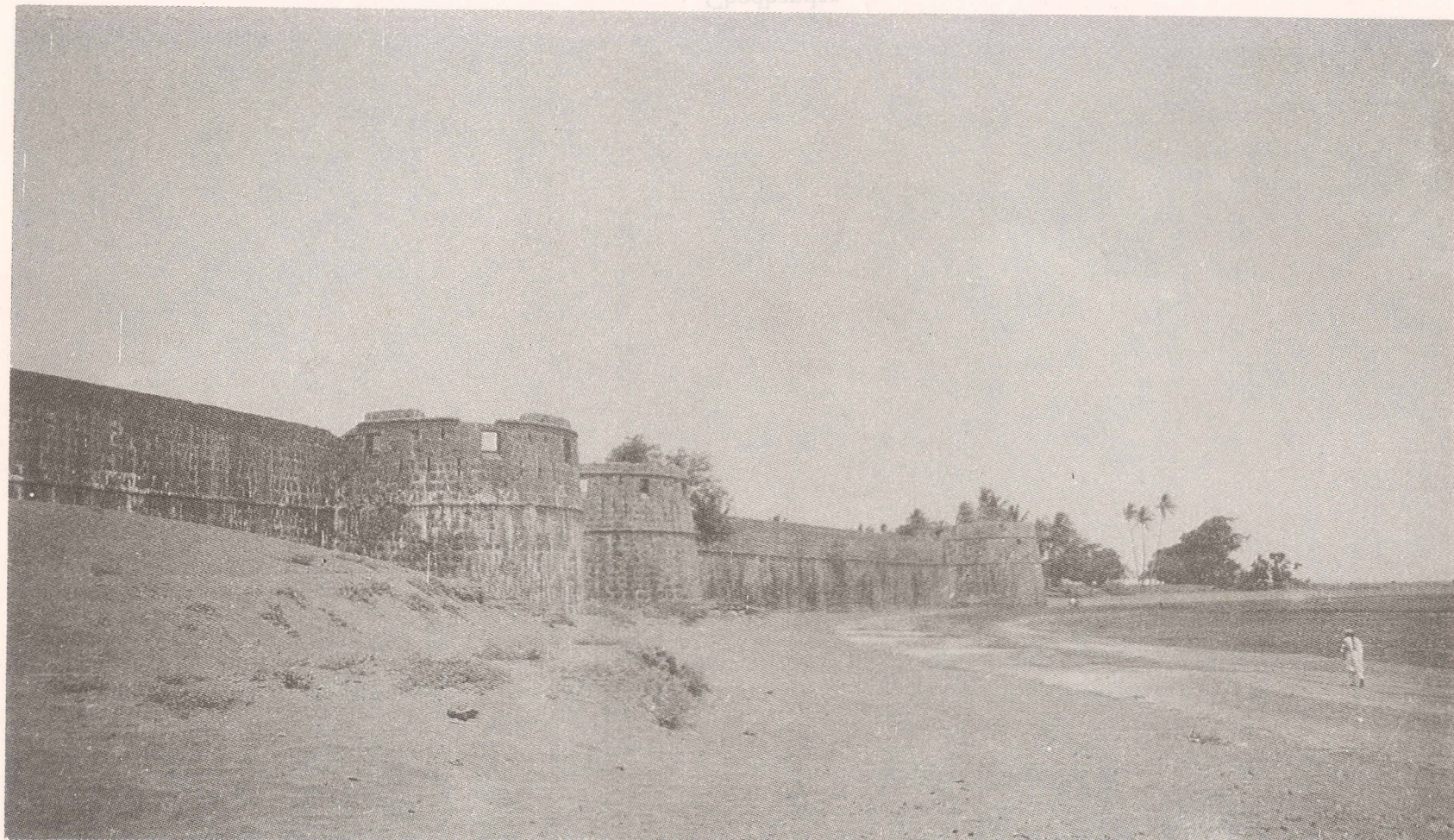
Ramsej



Harshgad



Anganeri



Arnala



Ghodbandar



Shivaneri



Chavand



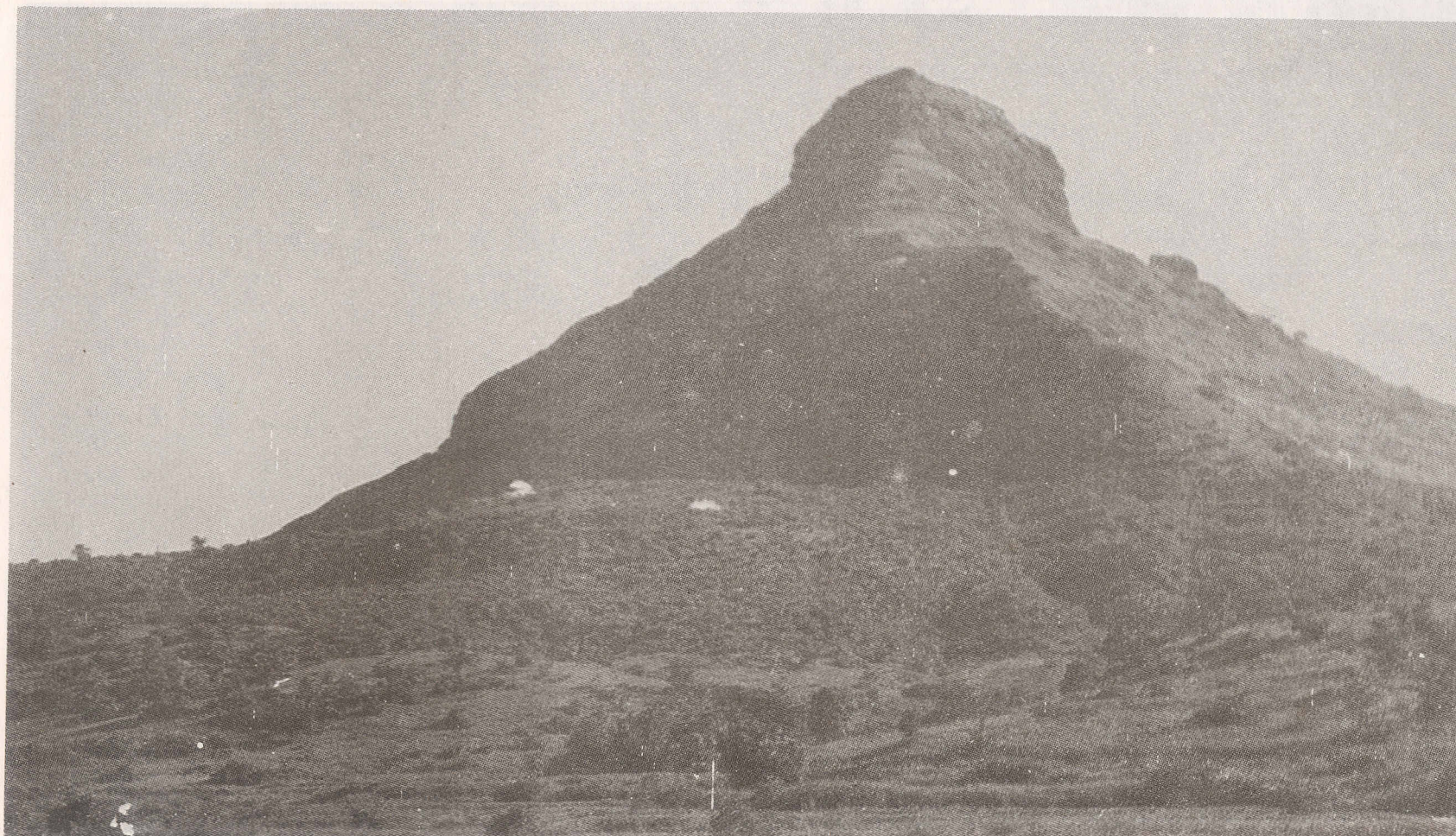
Hadsar



Narayangad



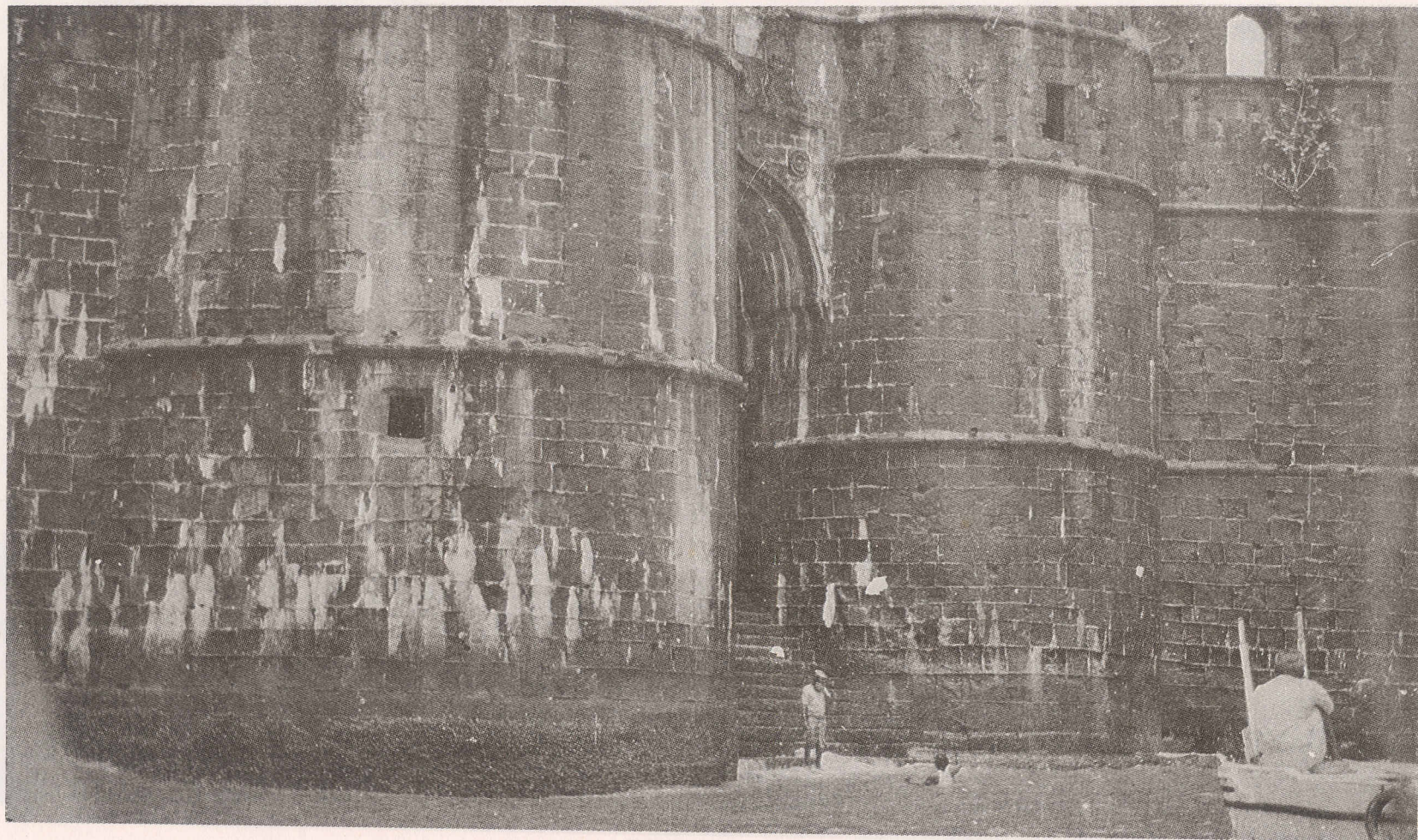
Lohagad



Tikona



Visapur

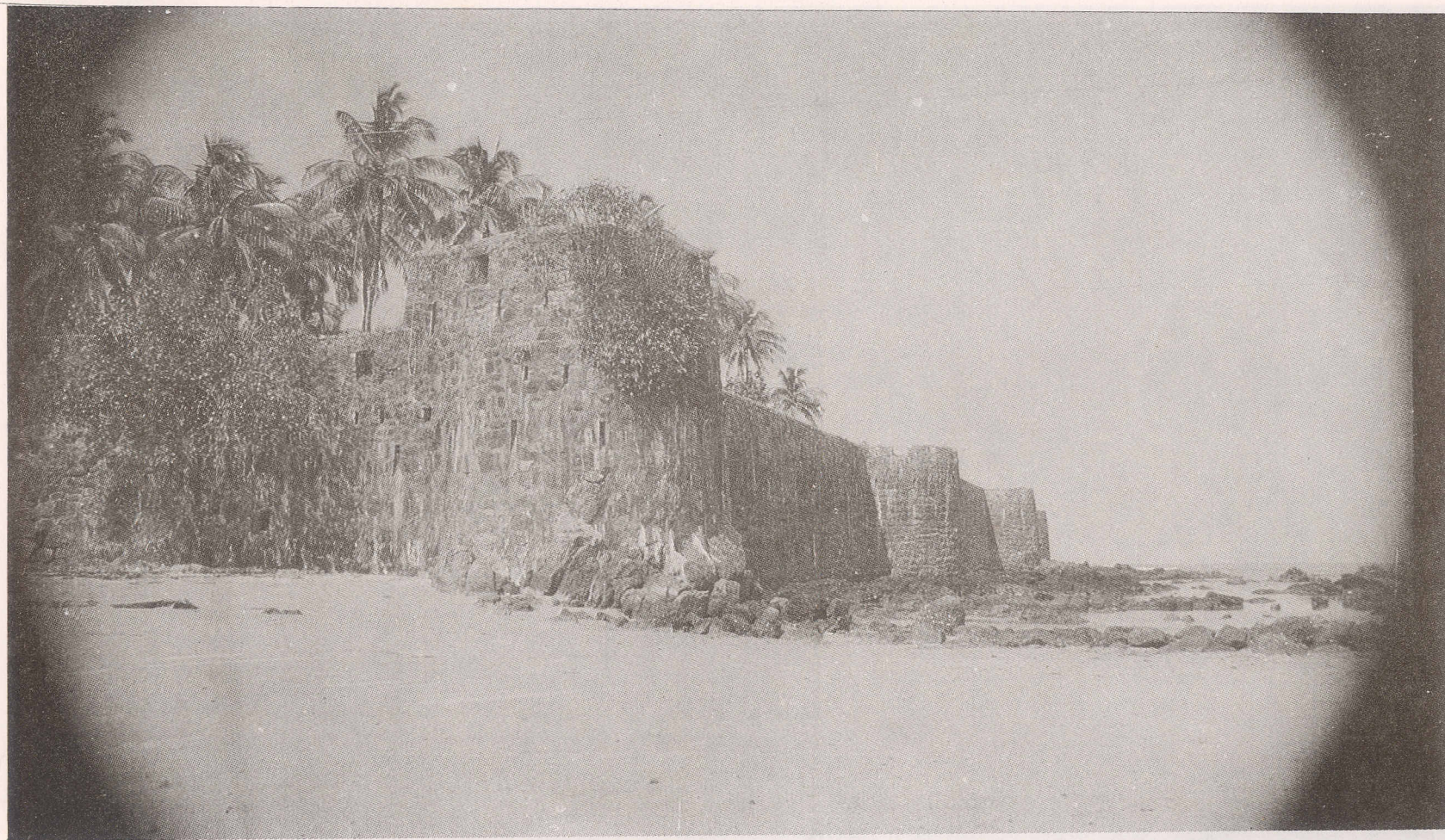


Janjira

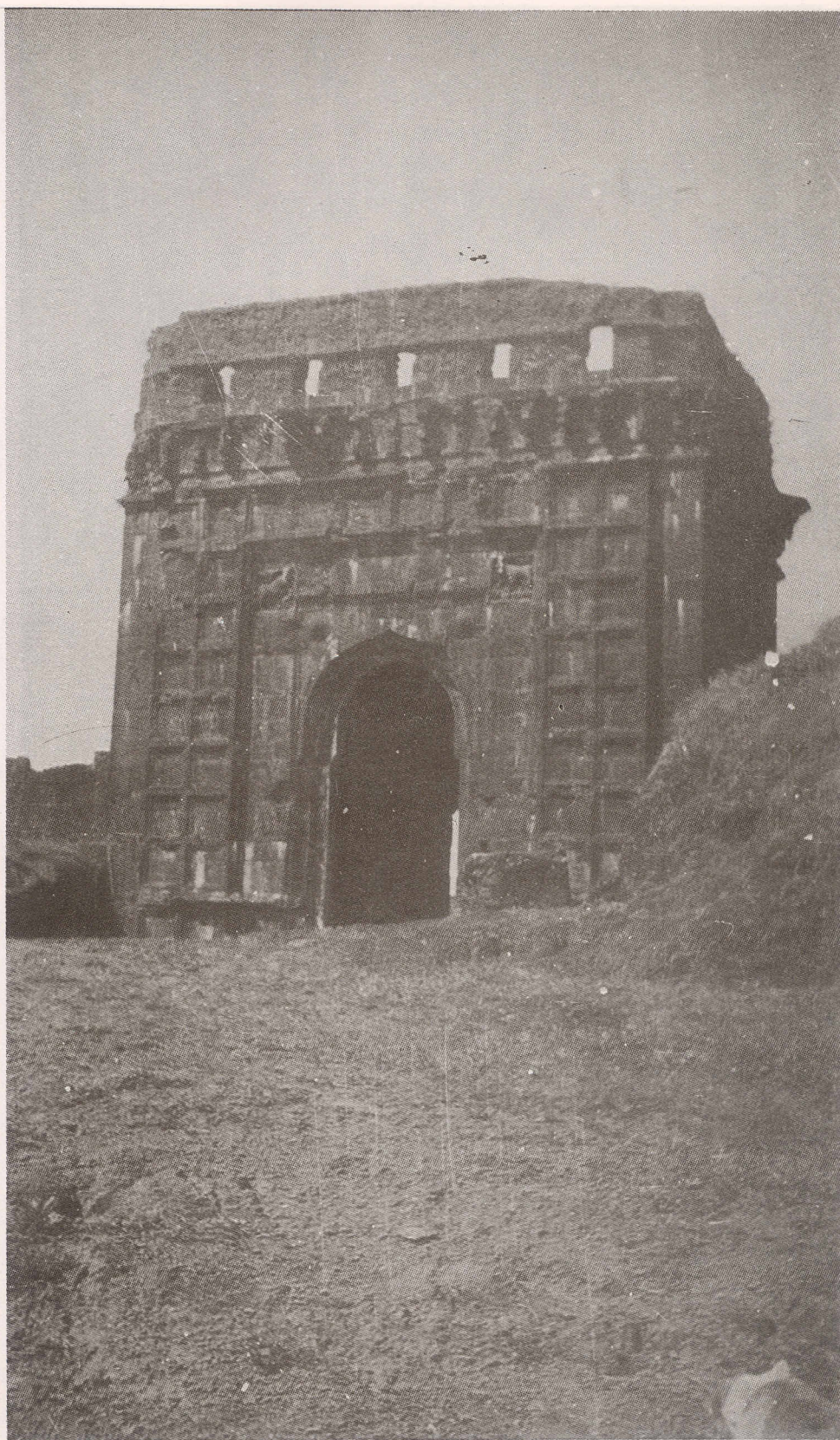


Korlai

कोणार्क



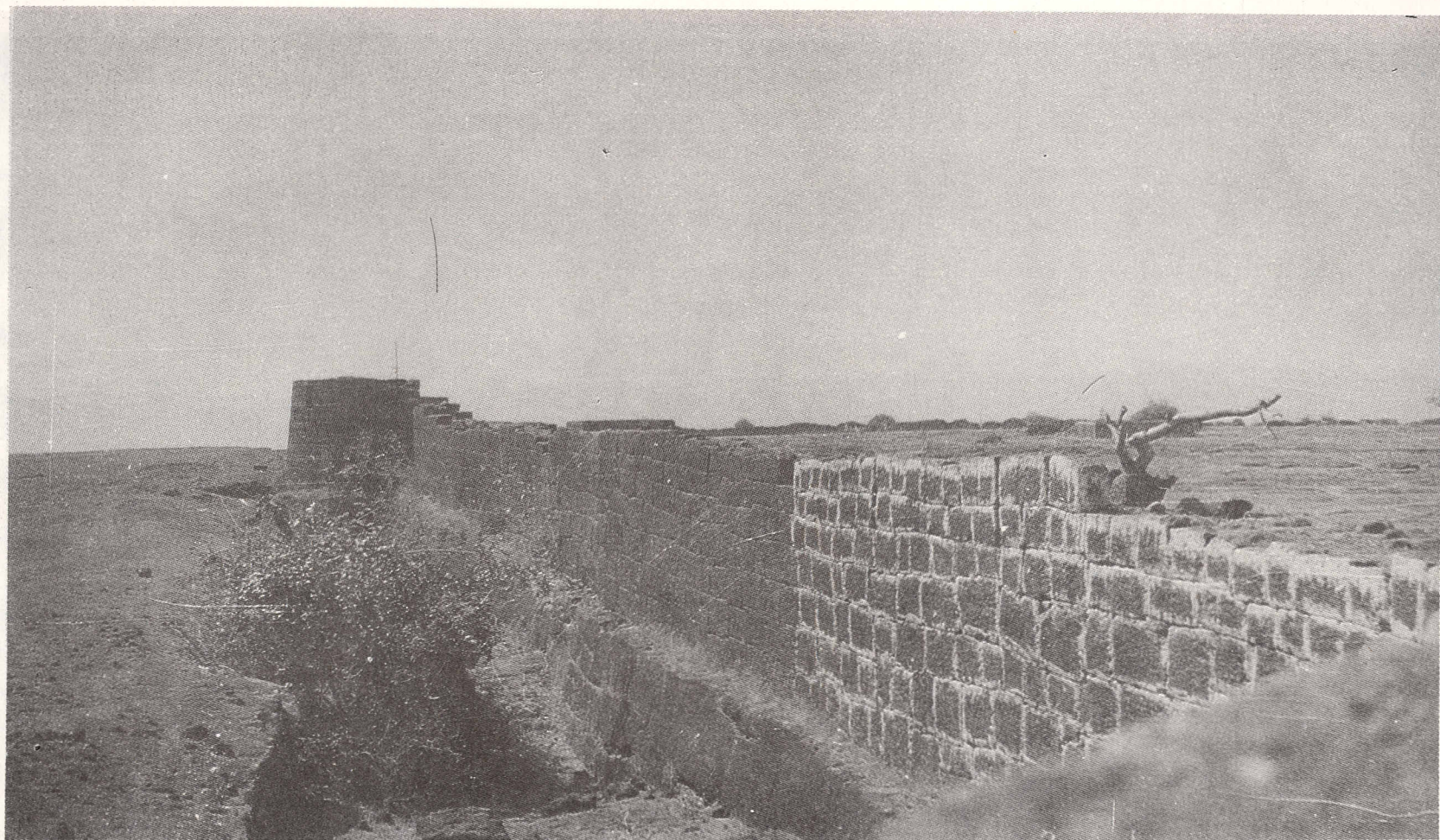
Revadanda



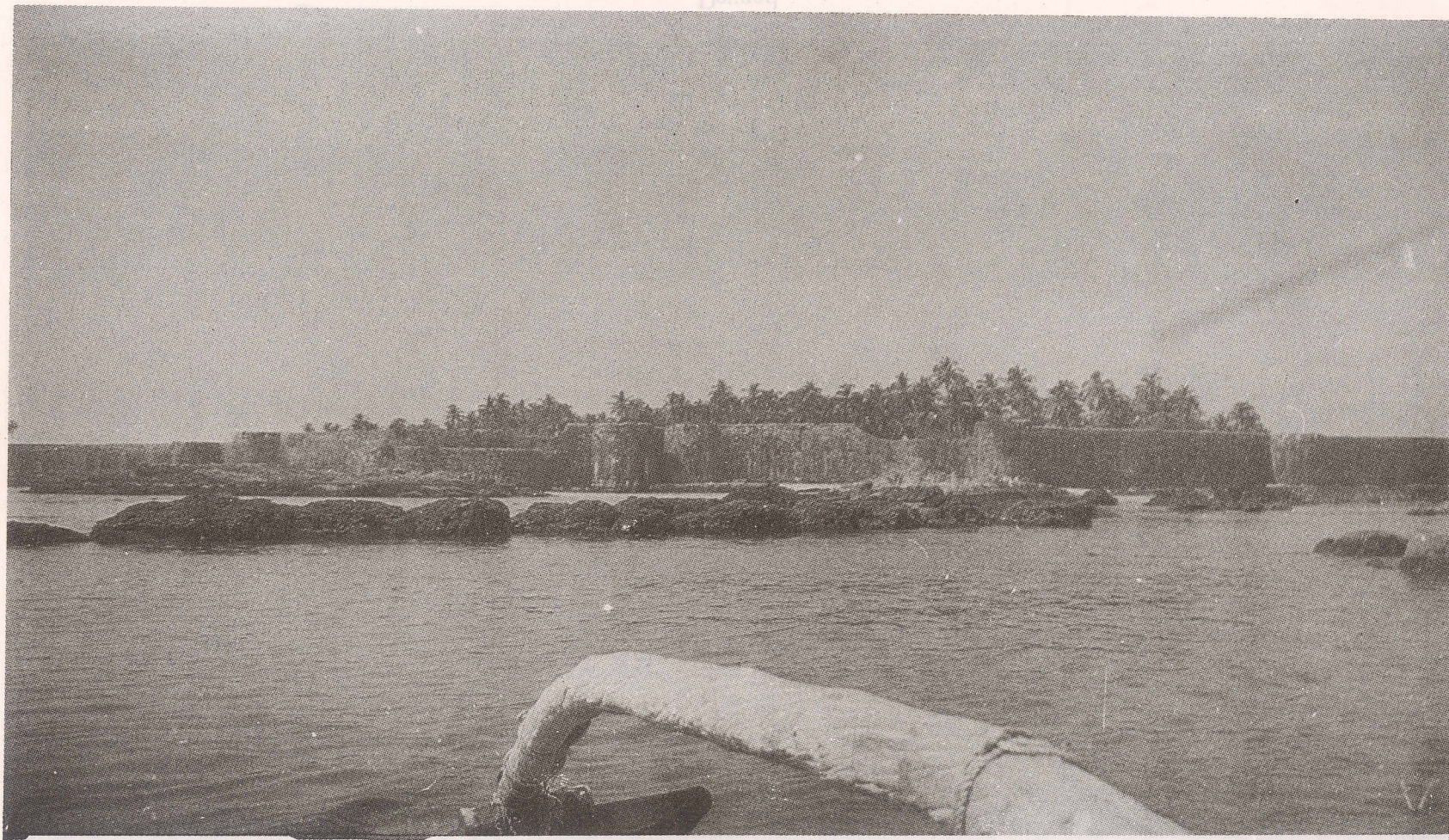
Raigad



Singhgad



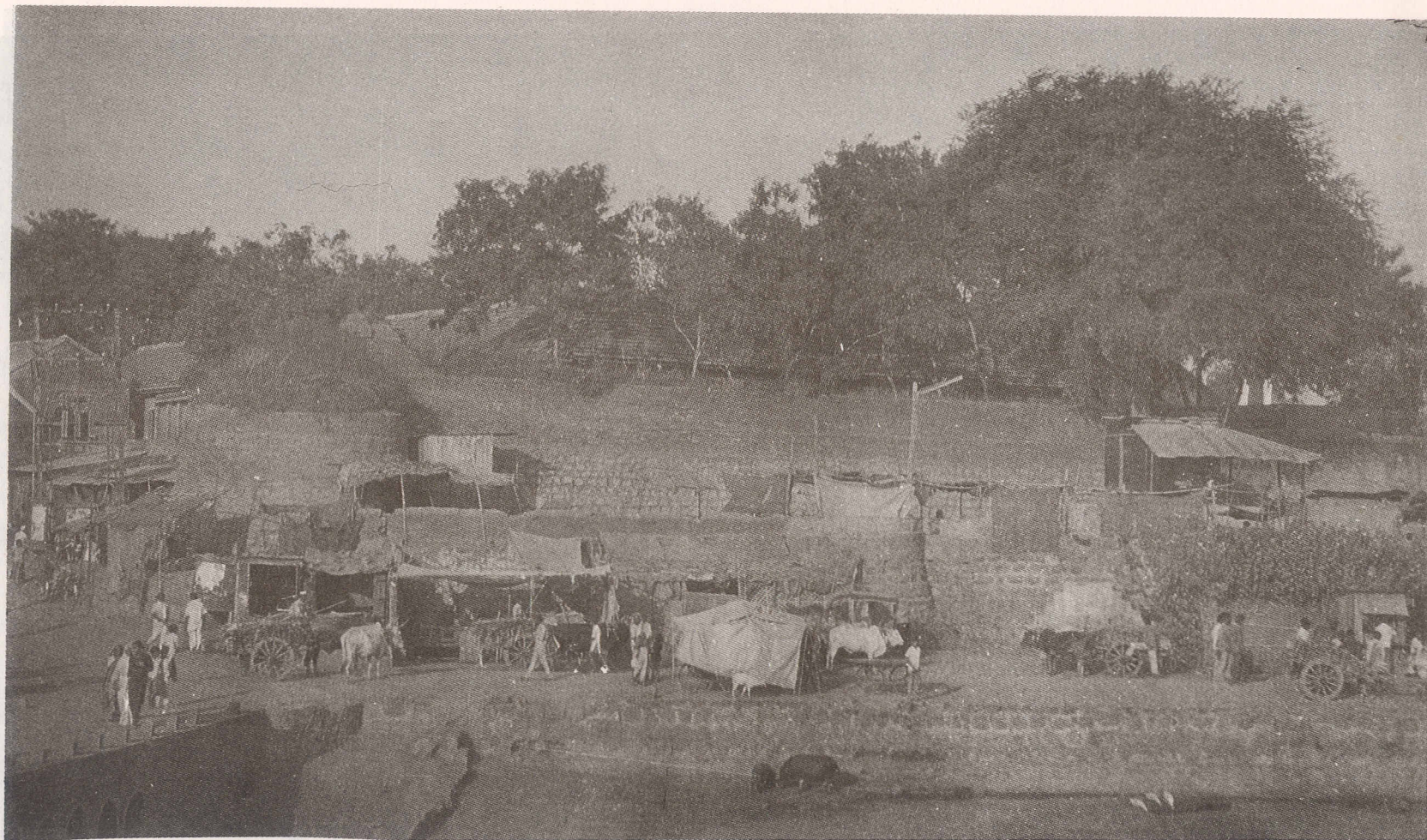
Devgad



Sindhudurg



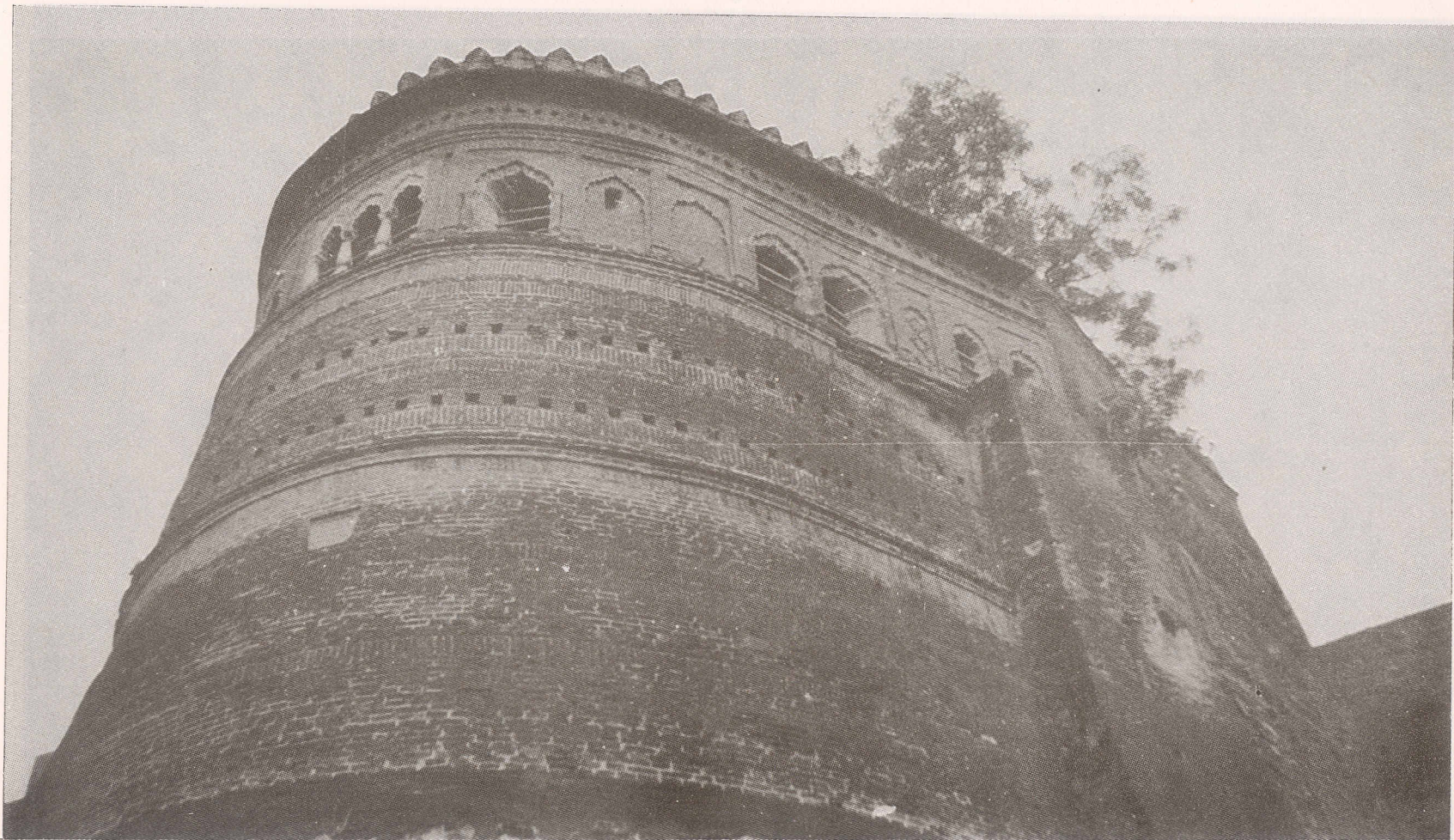
Statue of Shivaji



Varangaum



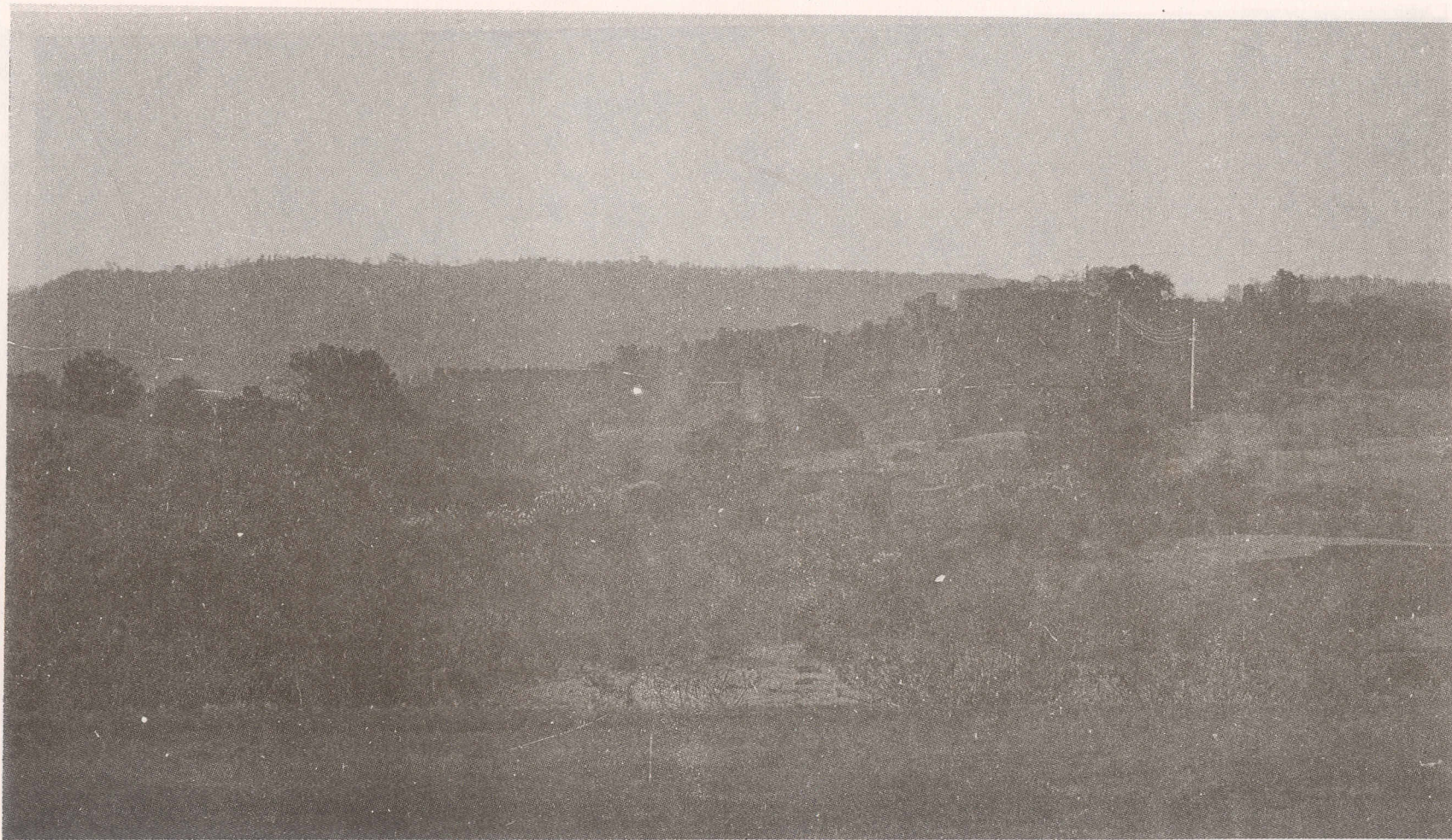
Balapur



Akola



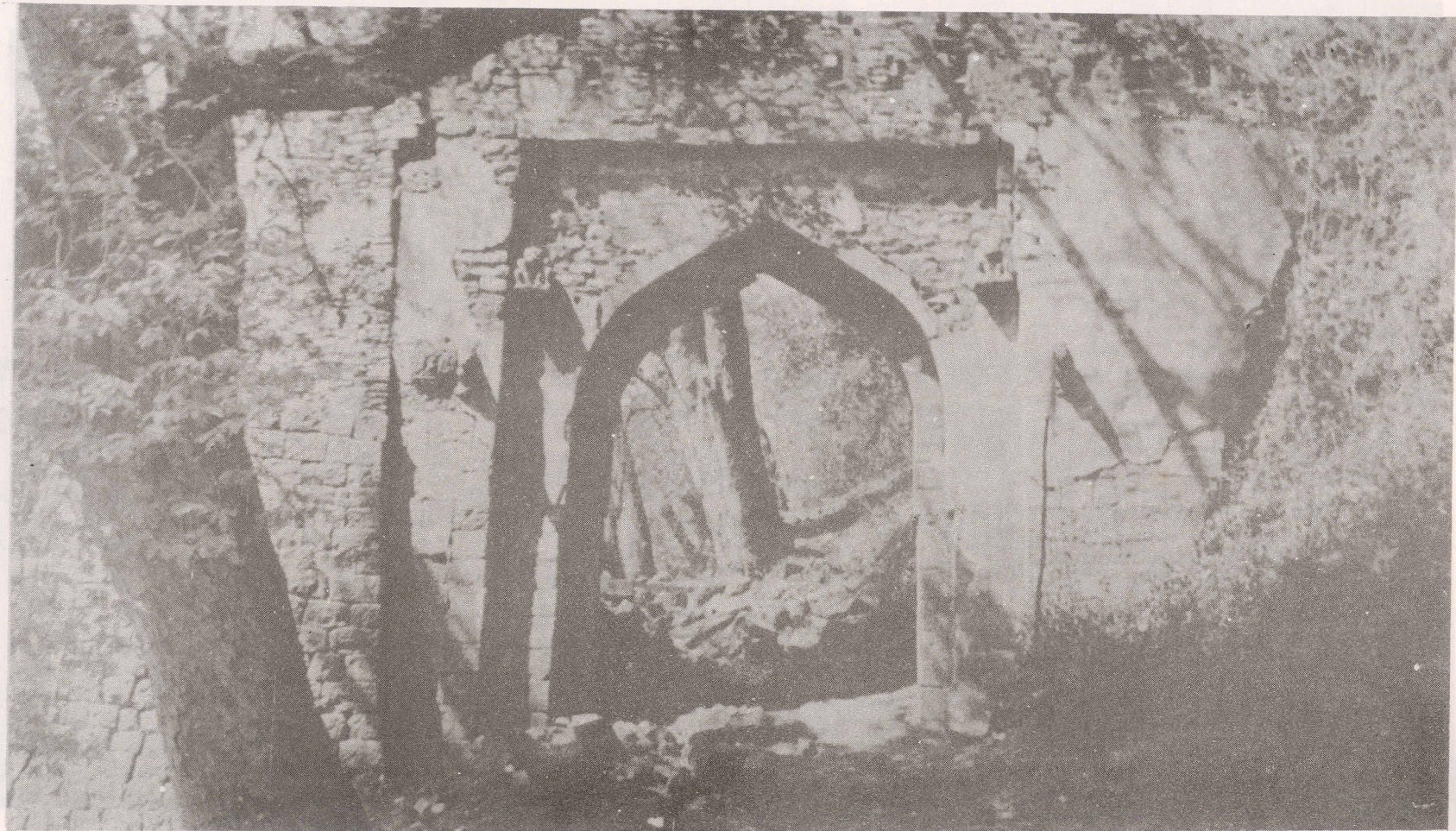
Naranala



Gawilgad



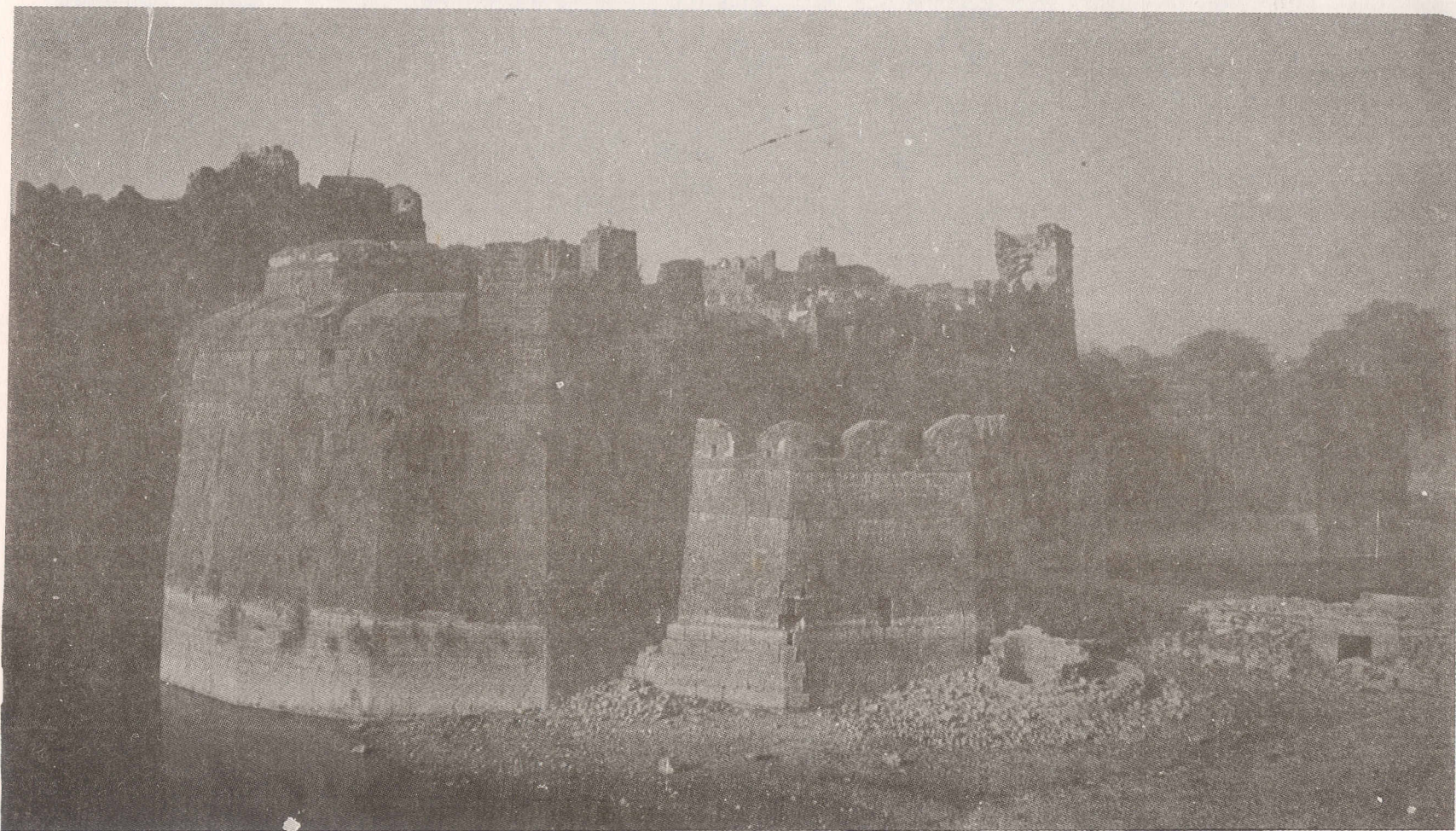
Ballalpur



Manikgad



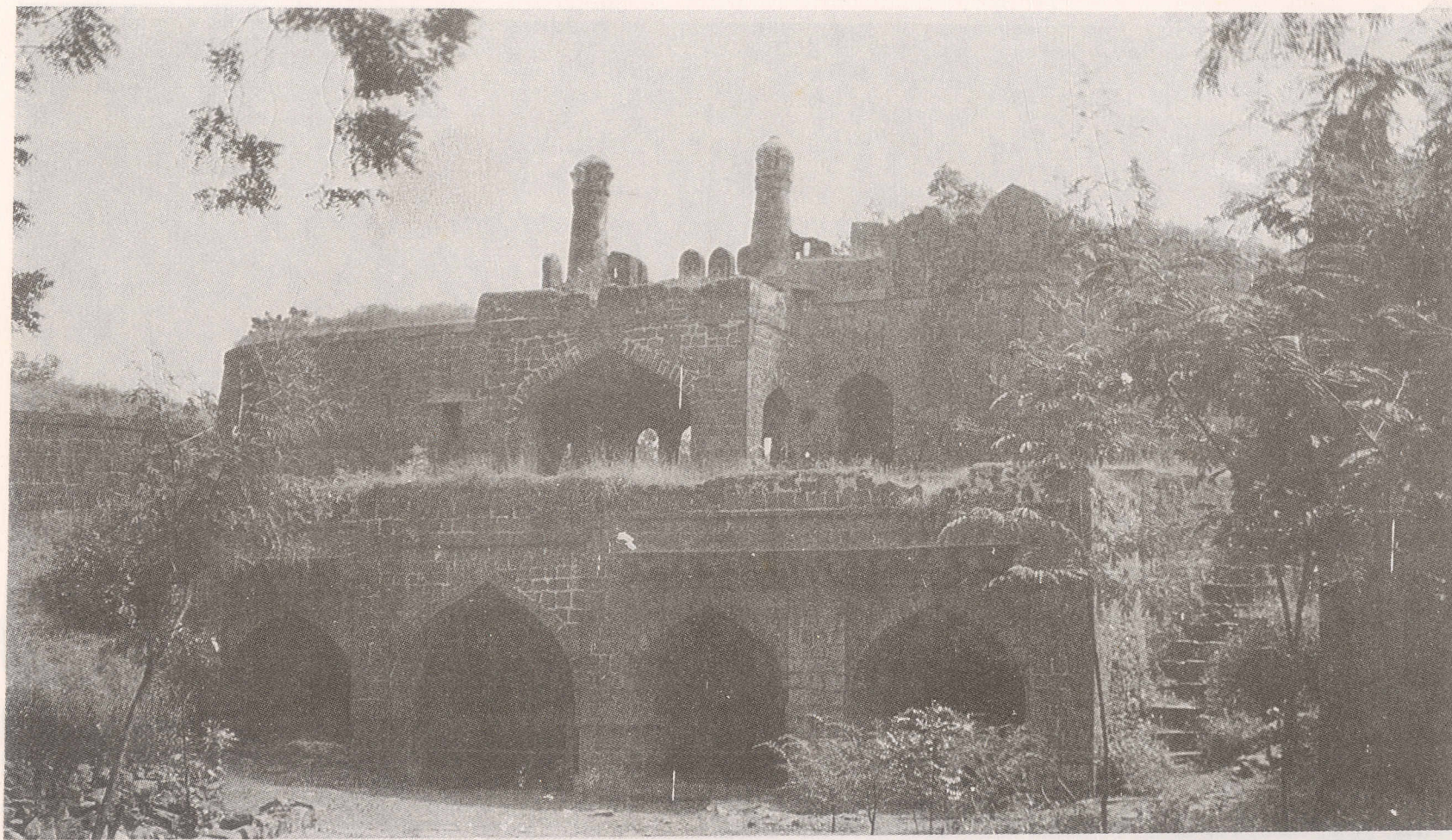
Mahur



Udgir



Naladurg



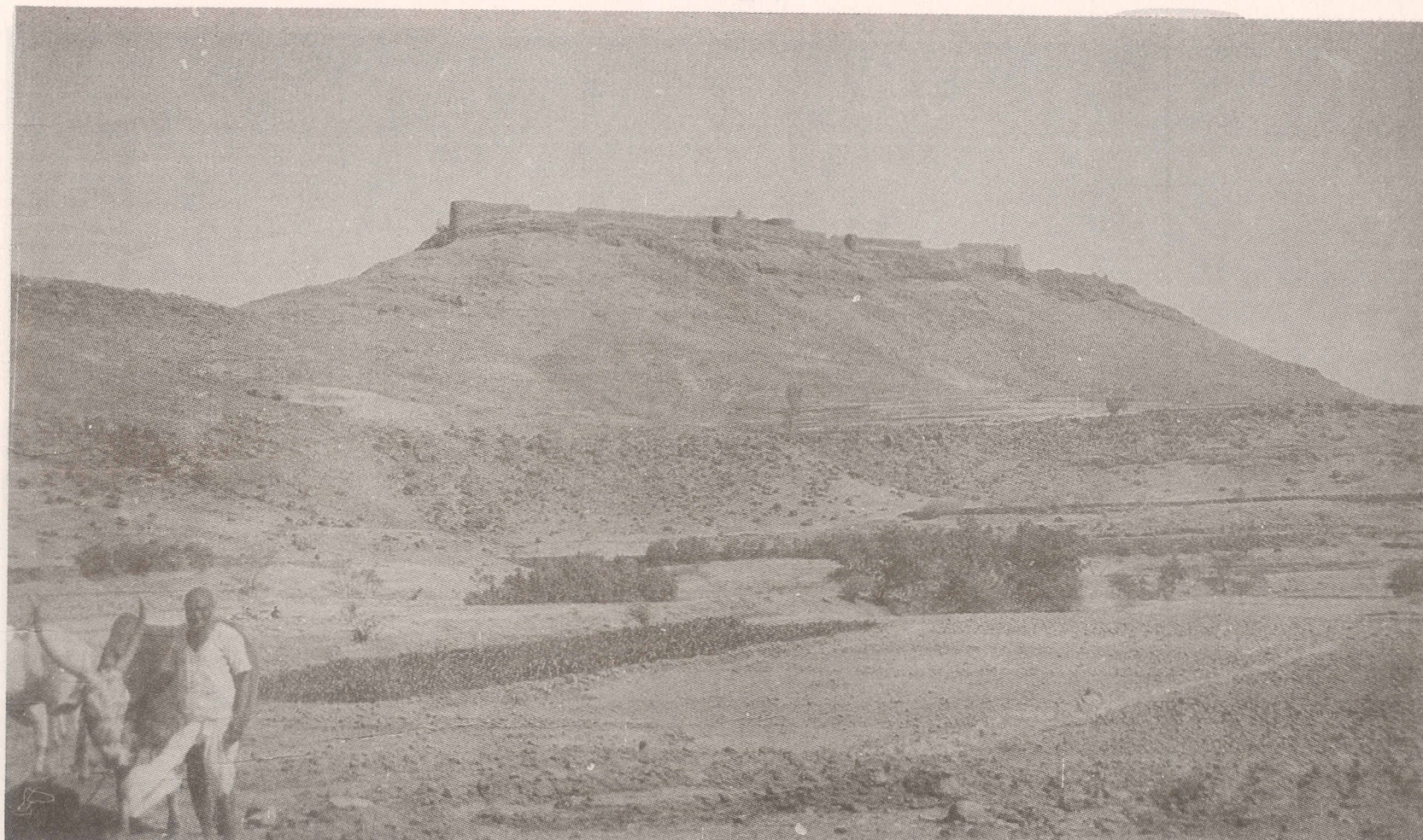
Solapur



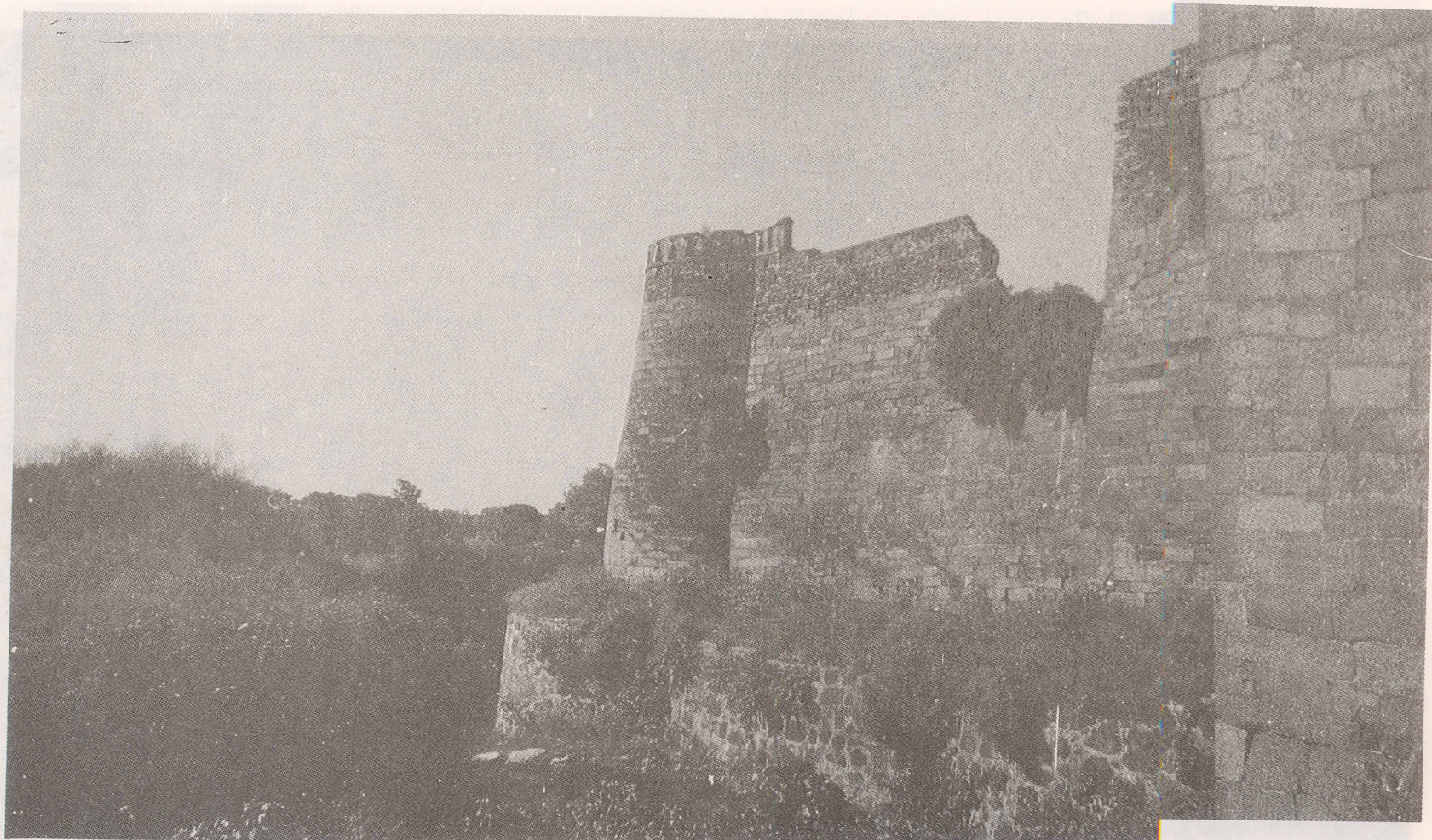
Purandar



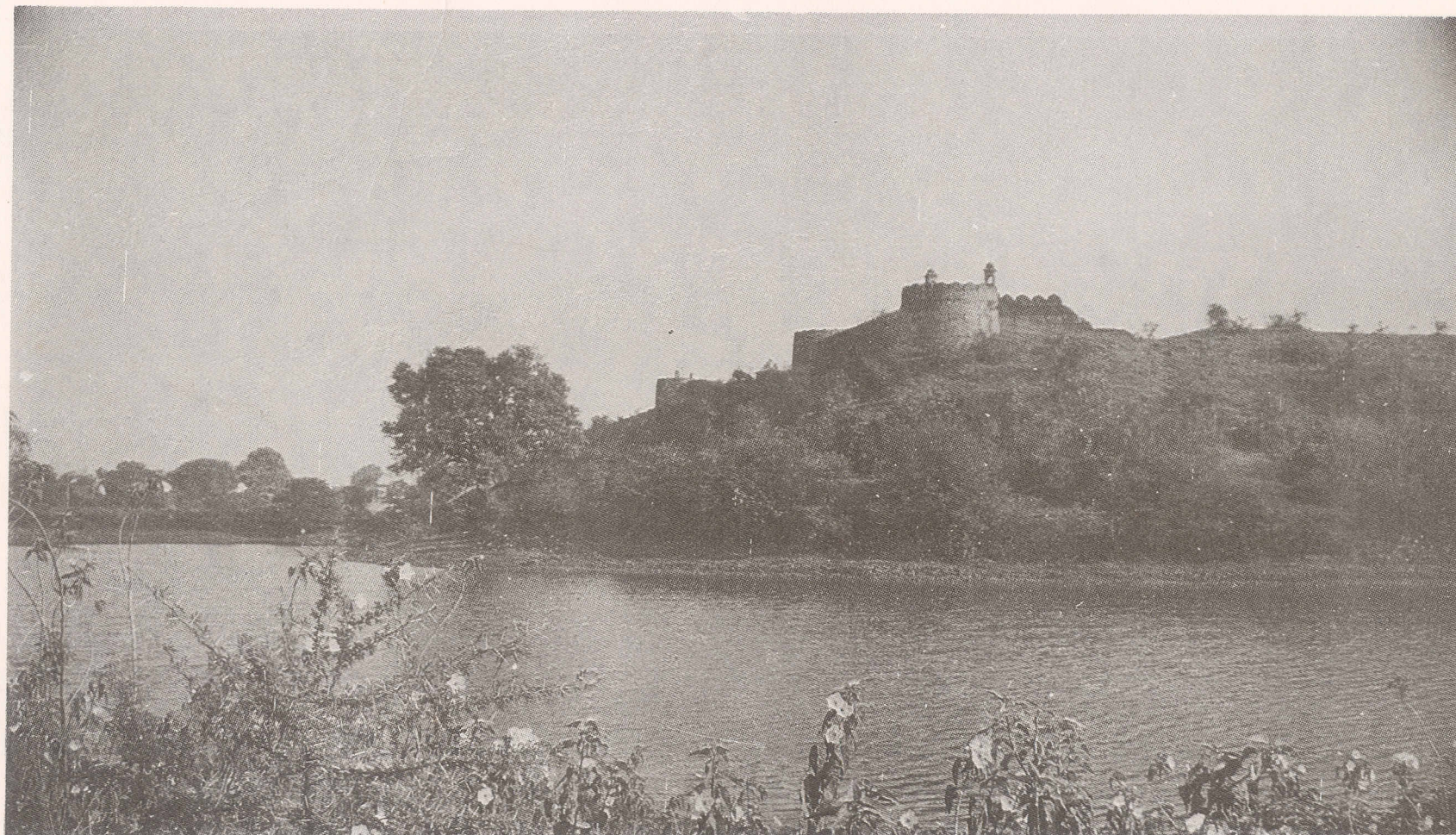
Wajragad



Mallhargad



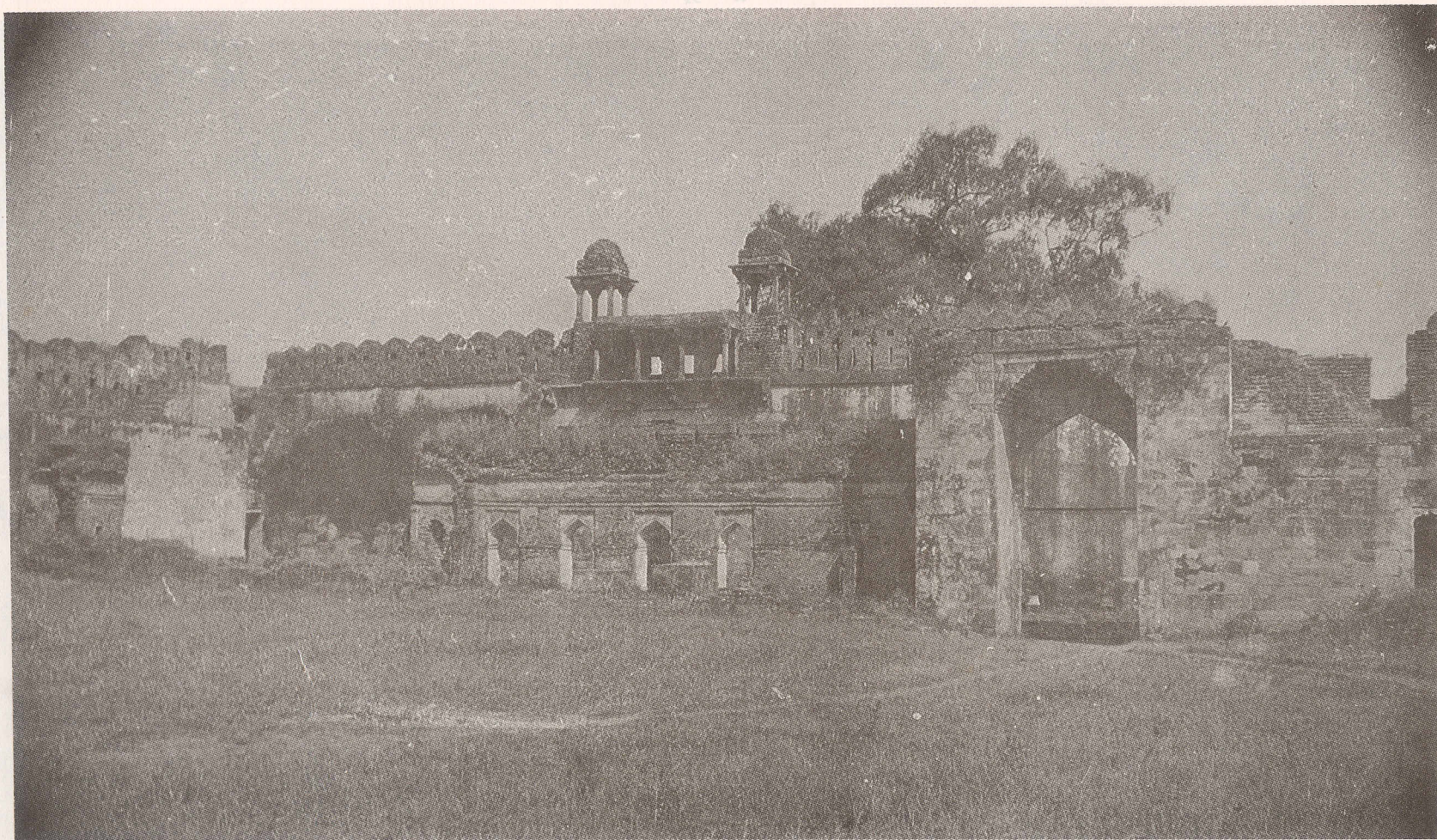
Chakan



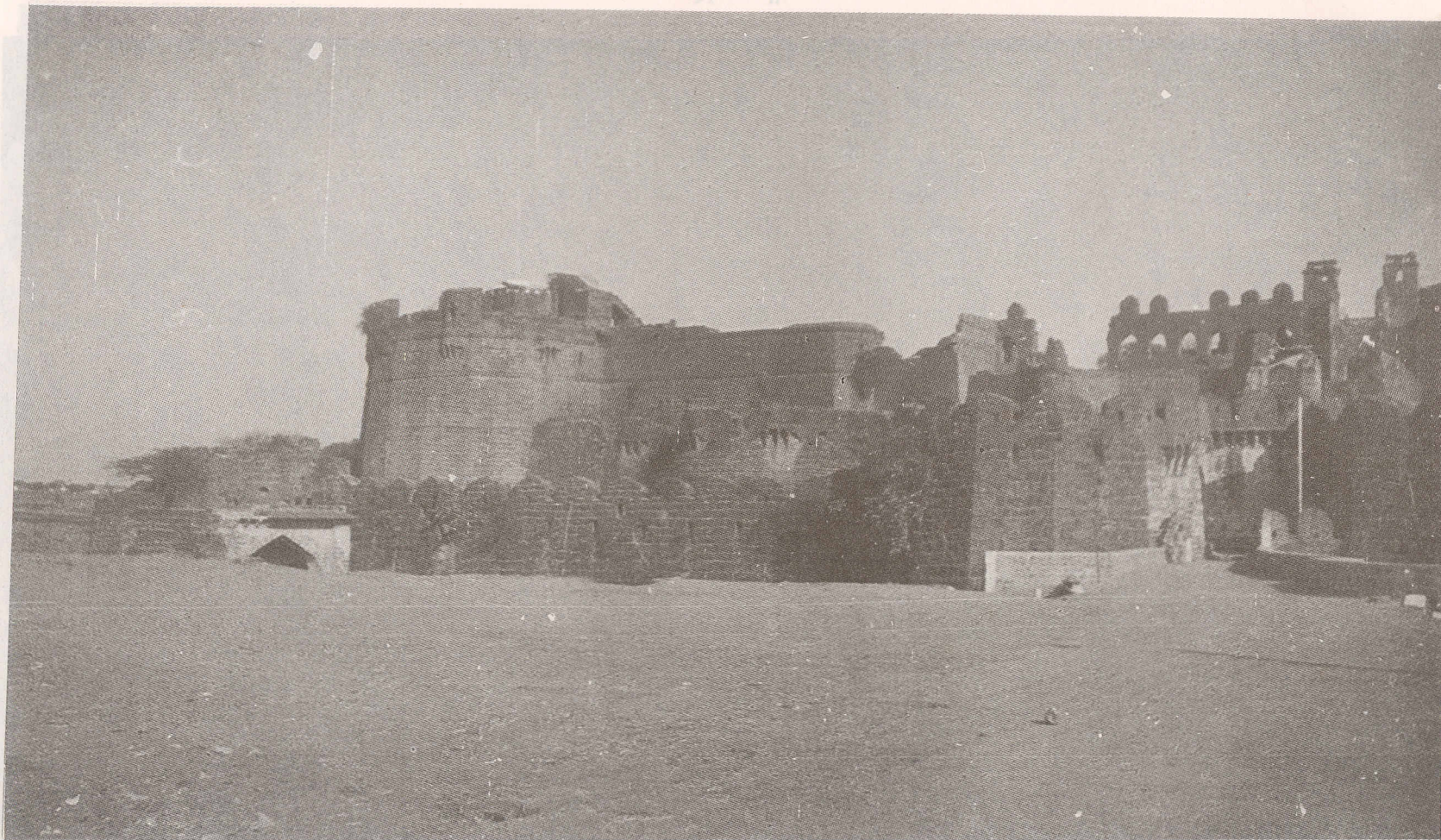
Pauni



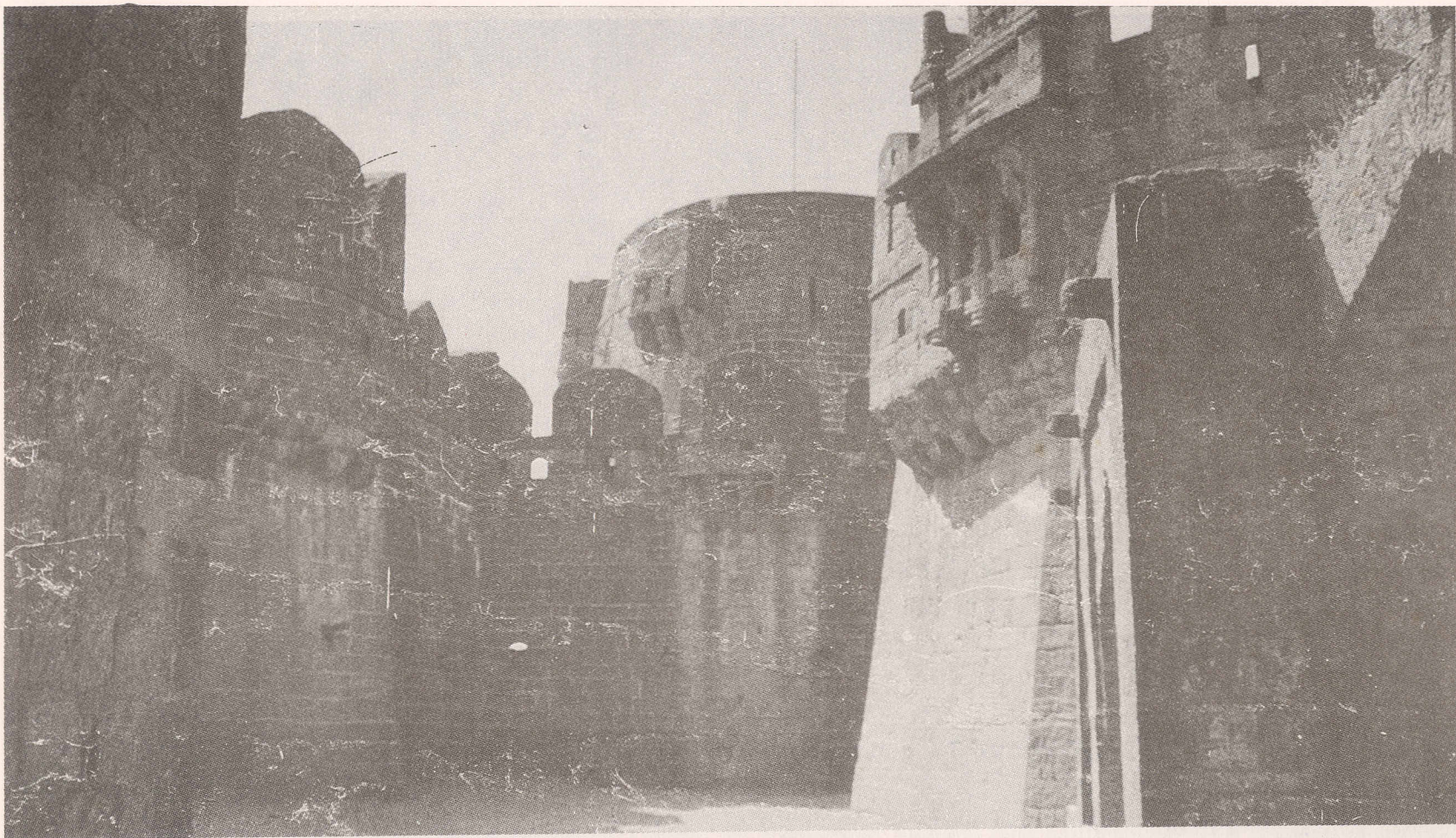
Dharur



Nagardhan



Kandhar



Parinda



Saptashrungi

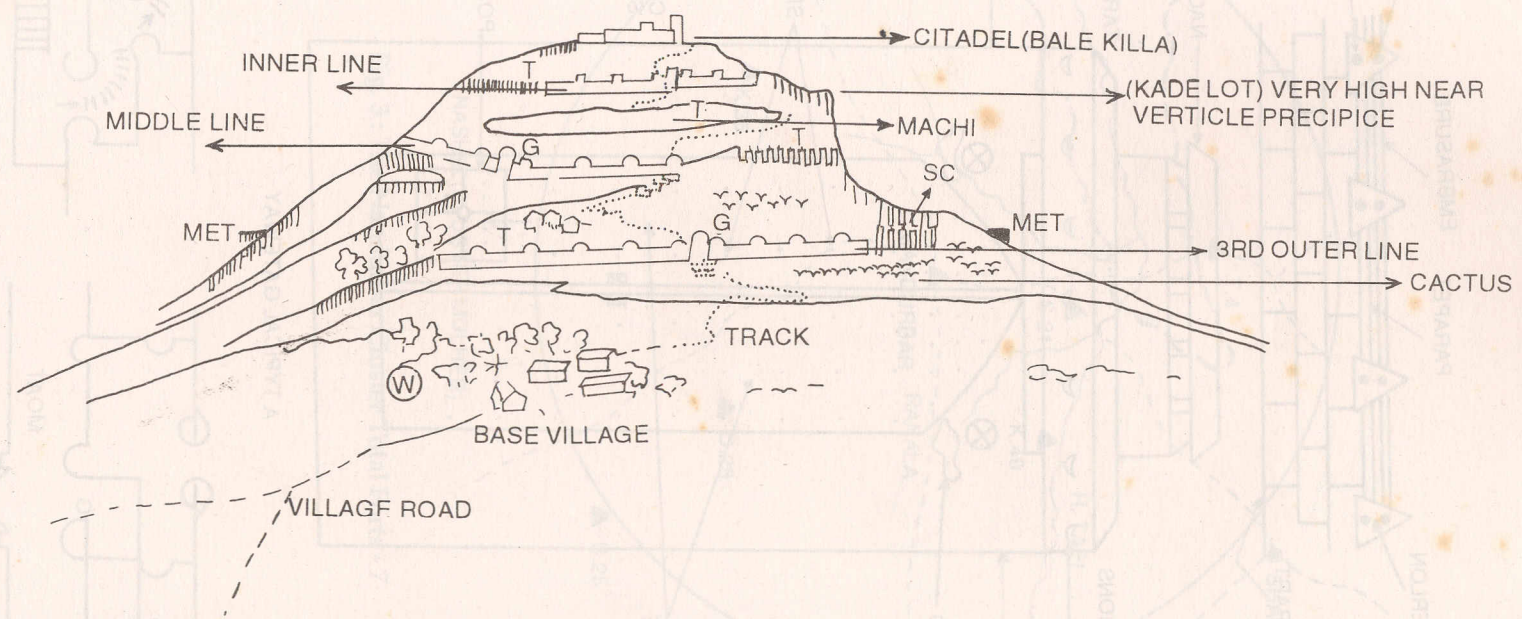


Fig. 1 : Diagrammatic Representation of a Typical Hill Fort

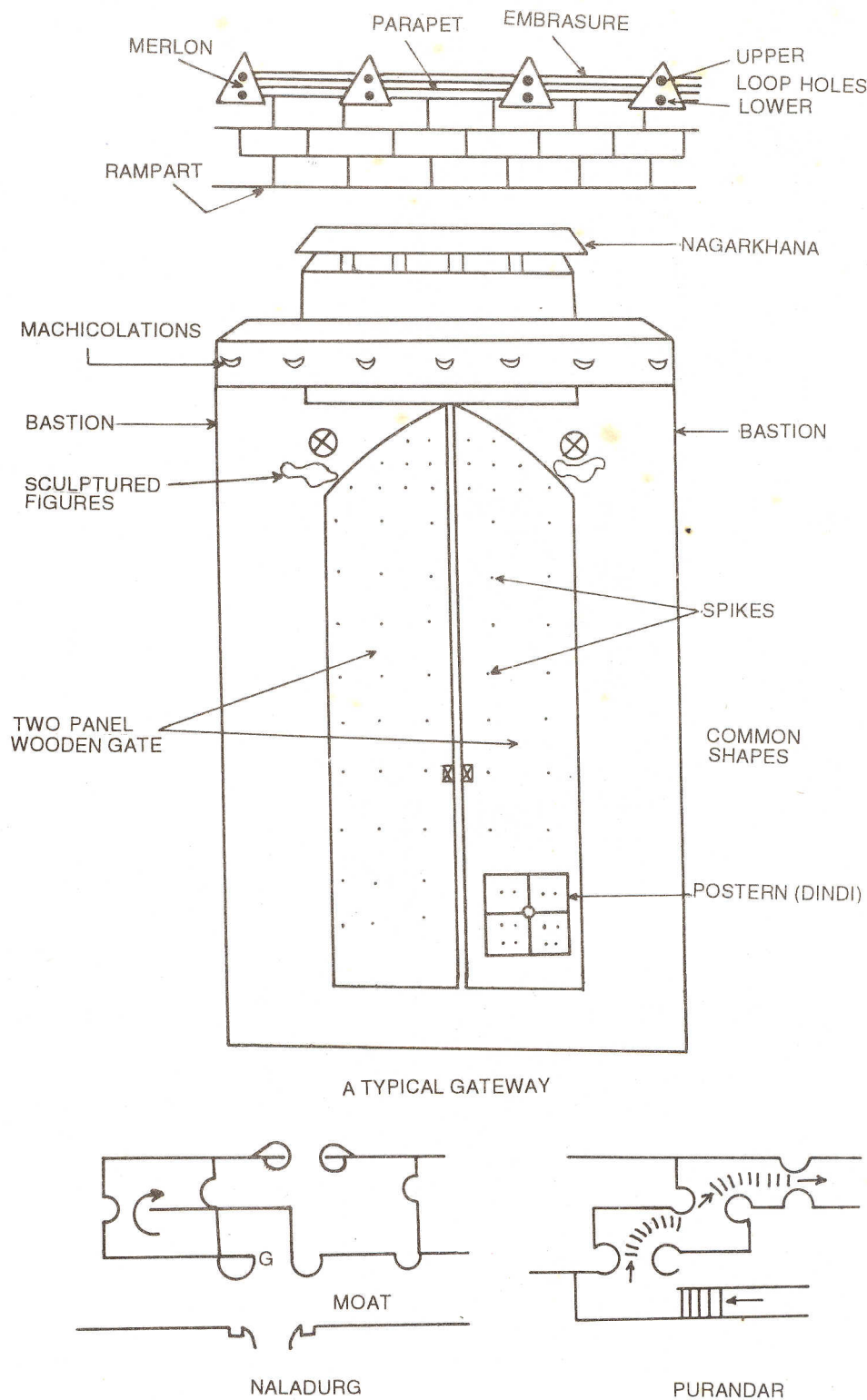


Fig. 2 : Some Features of Fortification and to Illustrate Arrangement of Gates

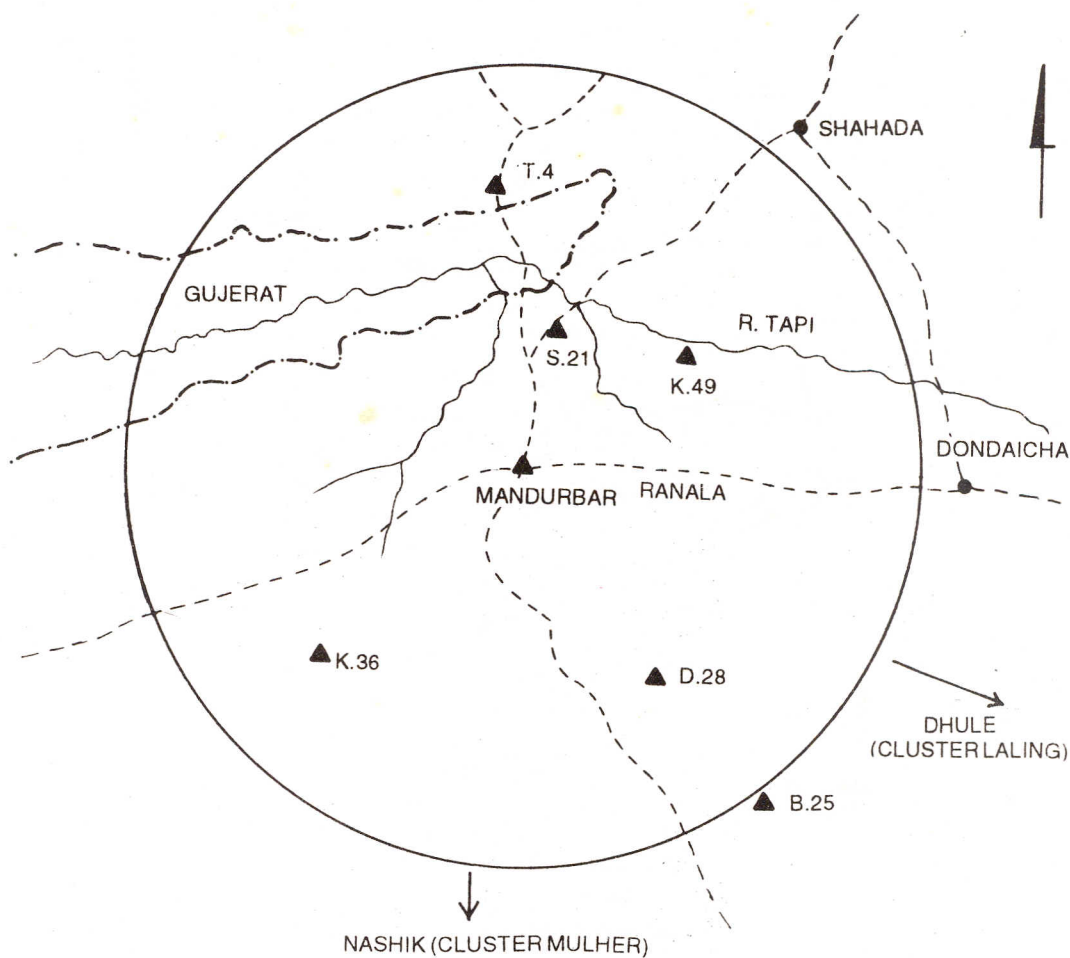


Fig. 3 : The Nandurbar Cluster Total Forts - 7

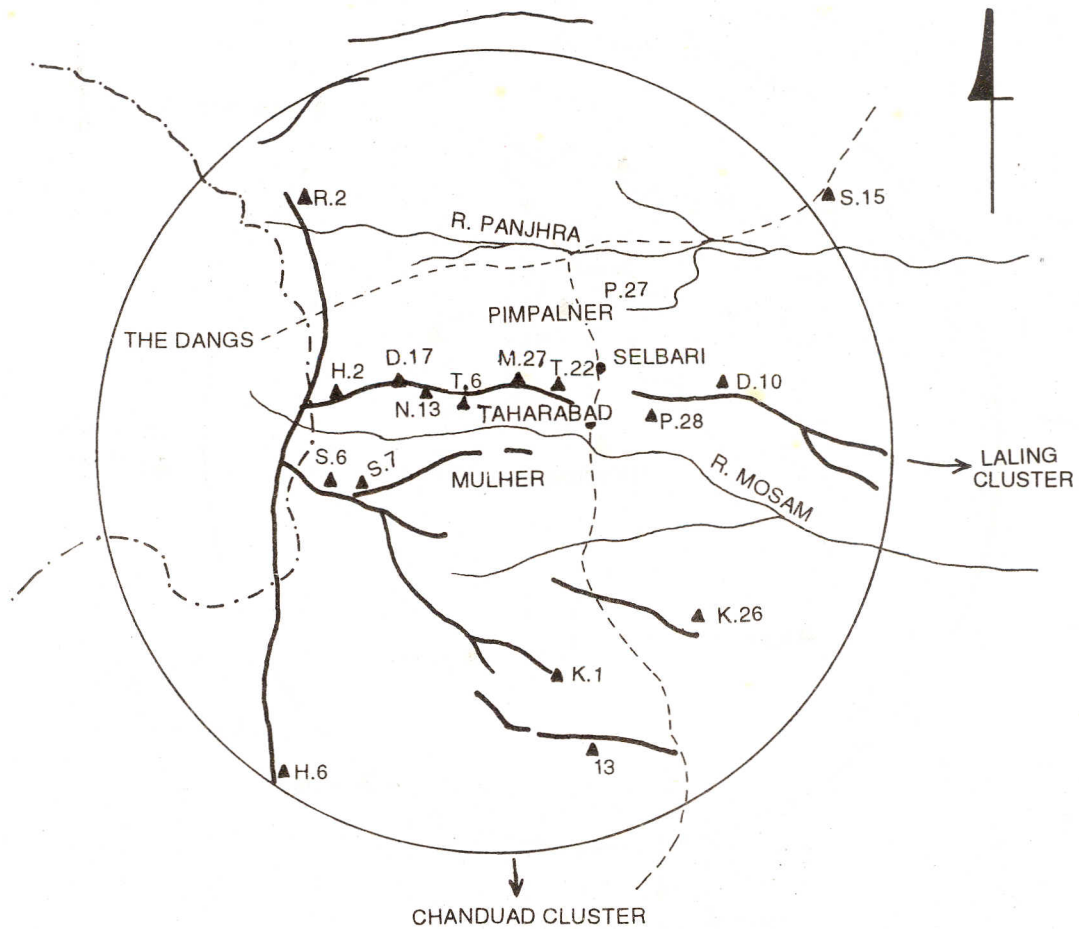


Fig. 4 : The Mulher Cluster Total Forts - 17

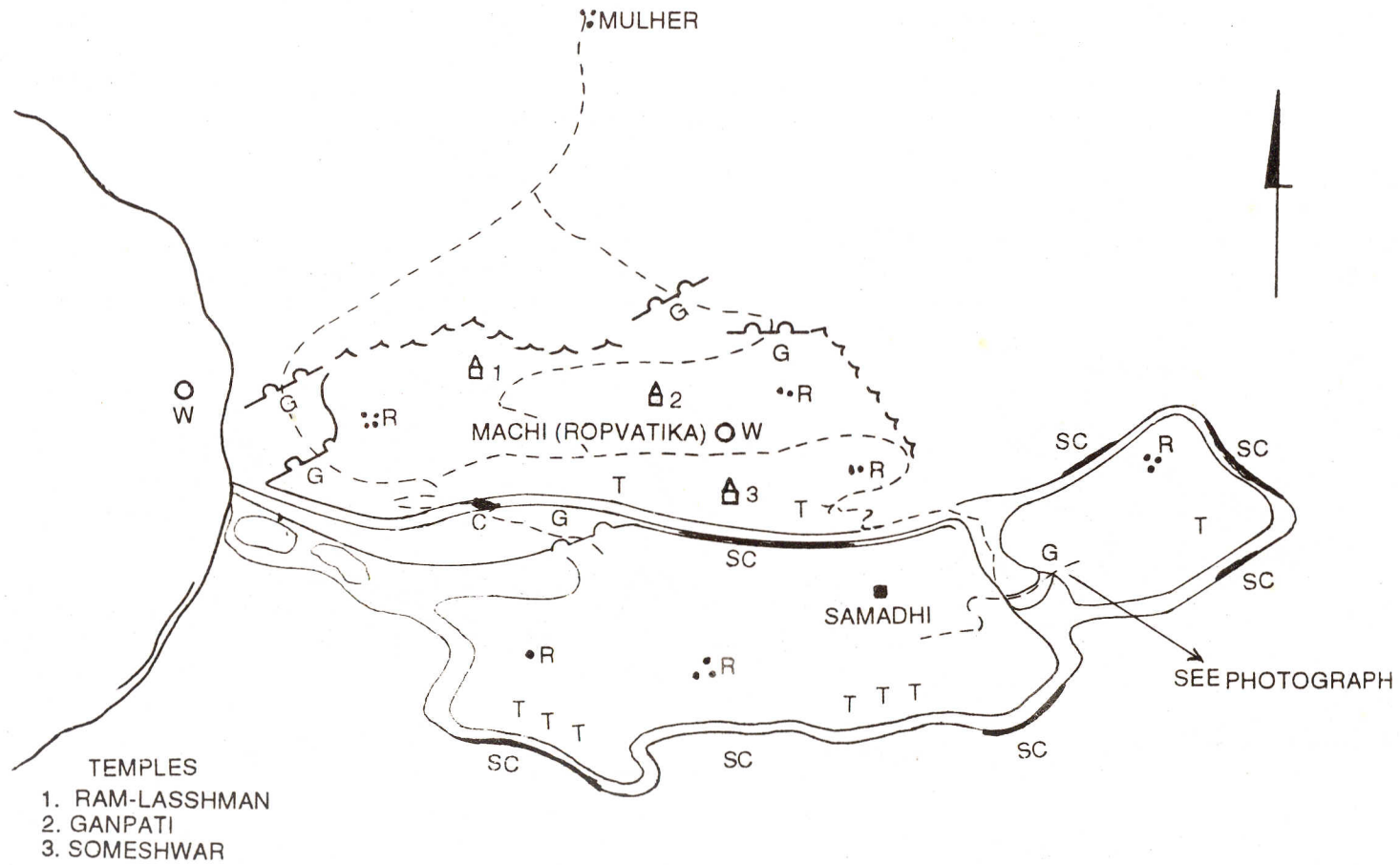


Fig. 5 : Mulher Layout

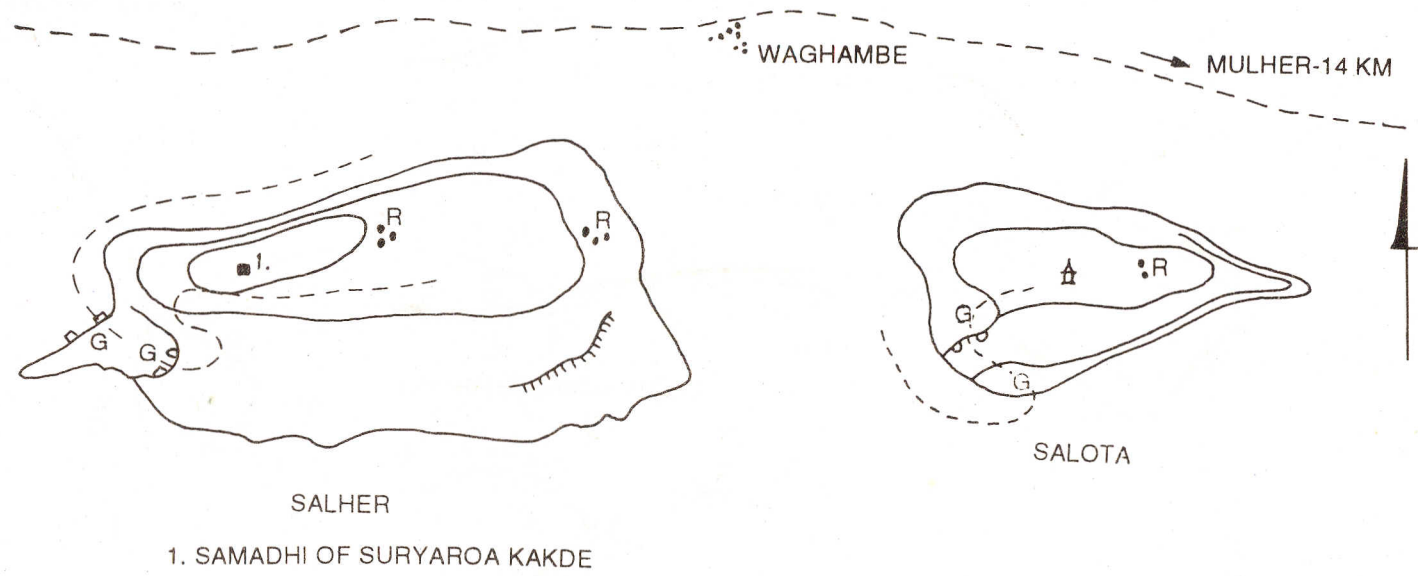
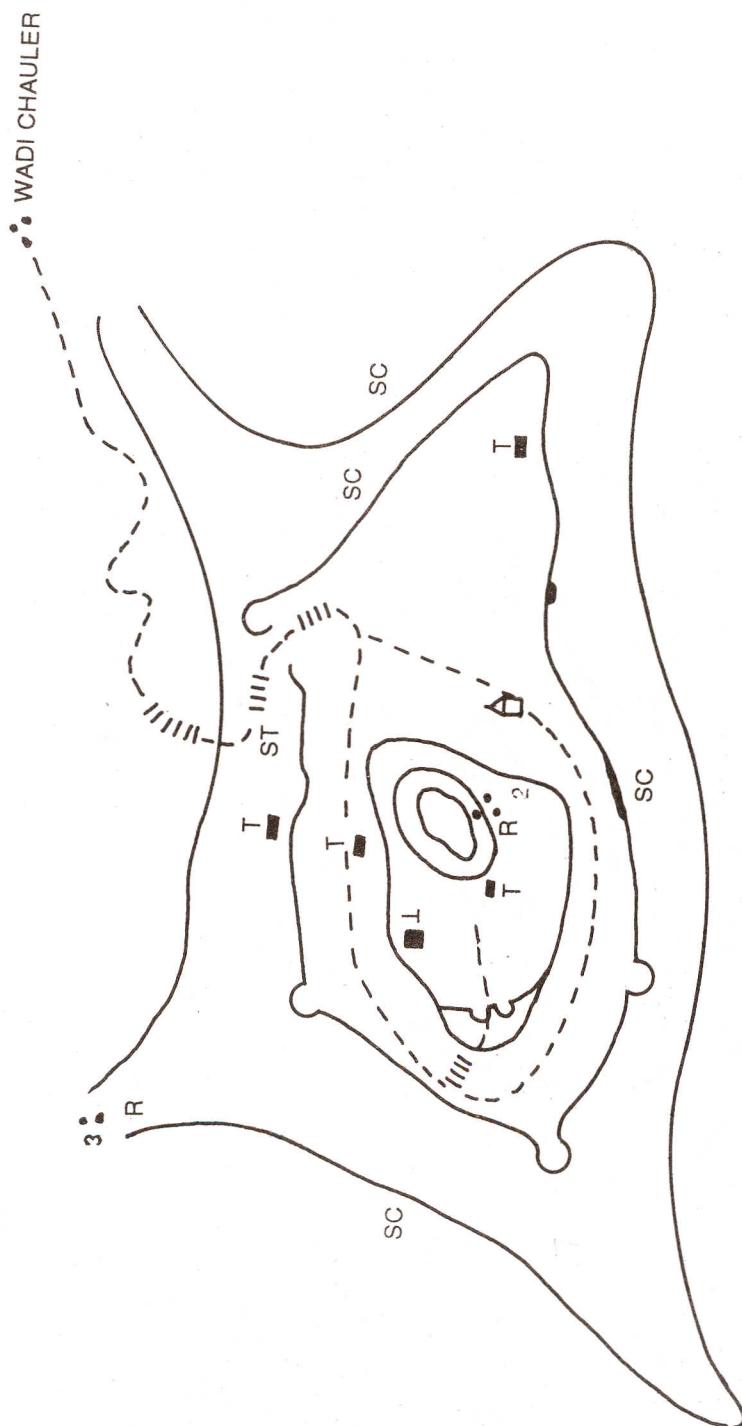


Fig. 6 : Salher and Salota



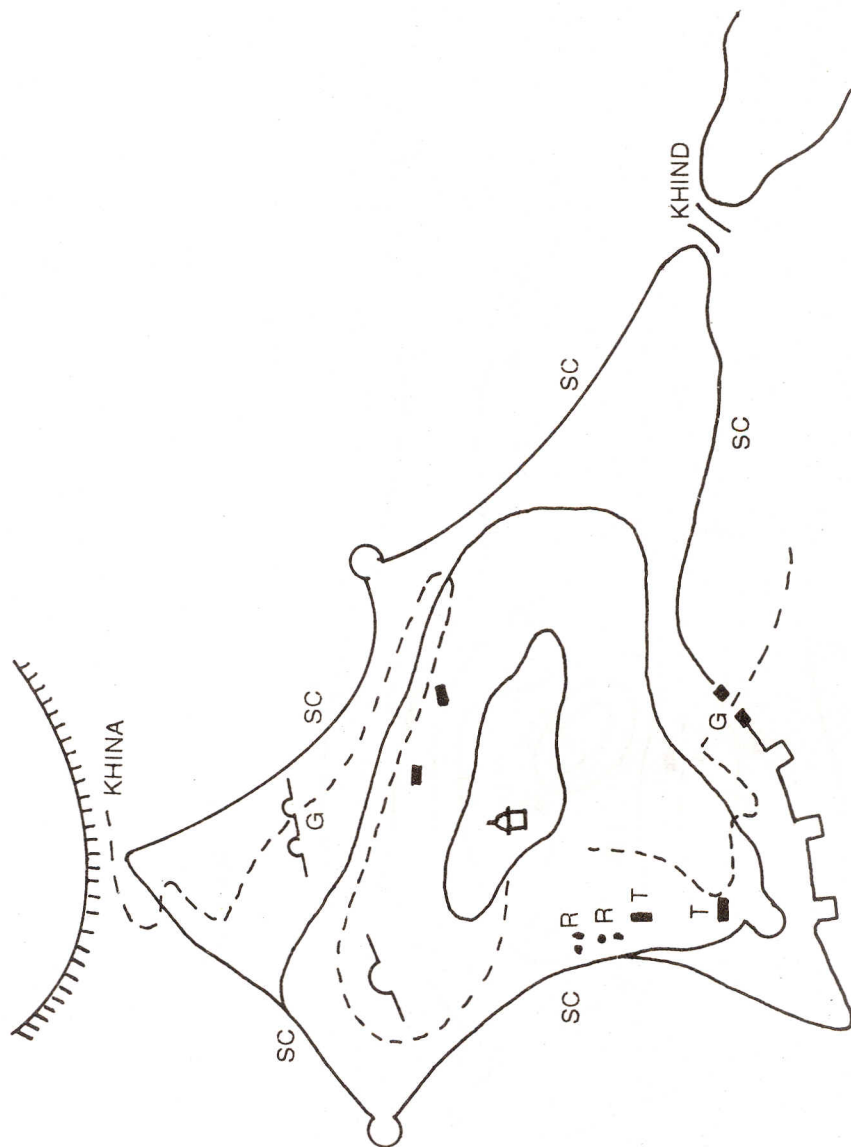


Fig. 8 : Fort Dermal

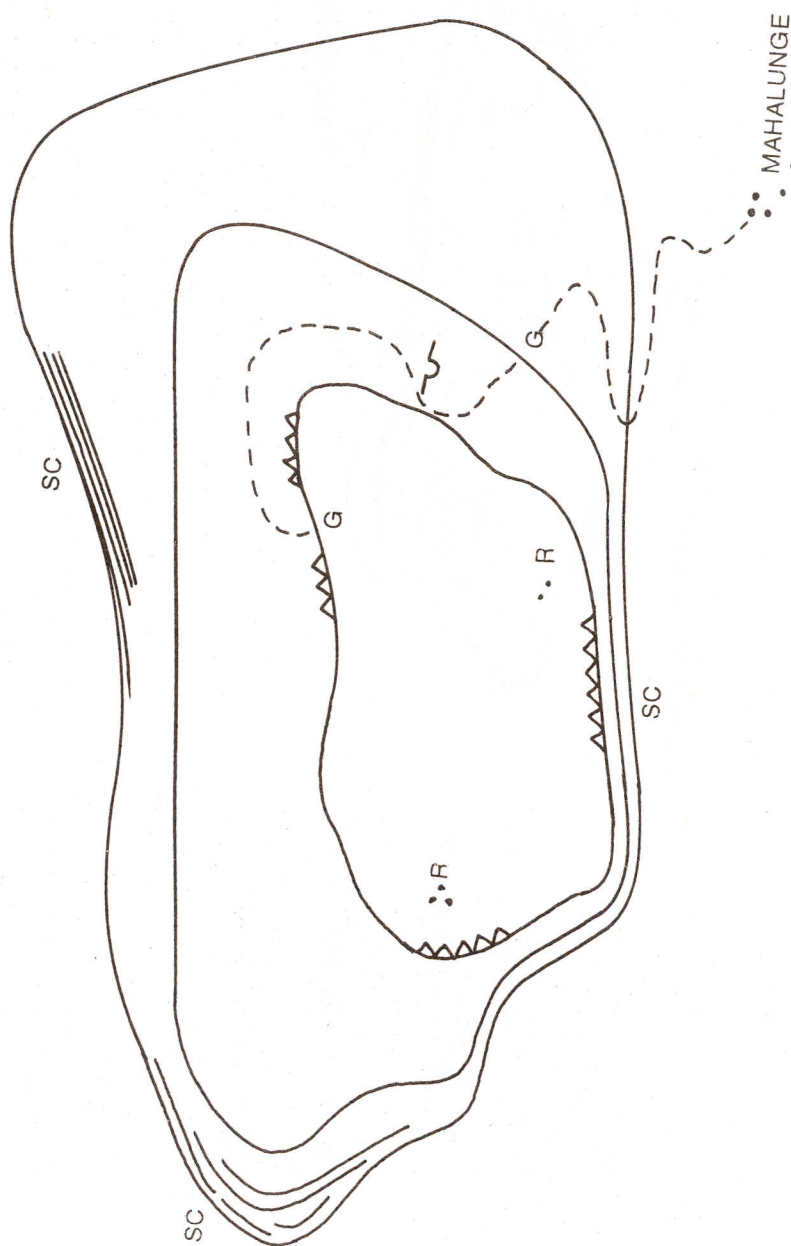


Fig. 9 : Fort Dhamnya

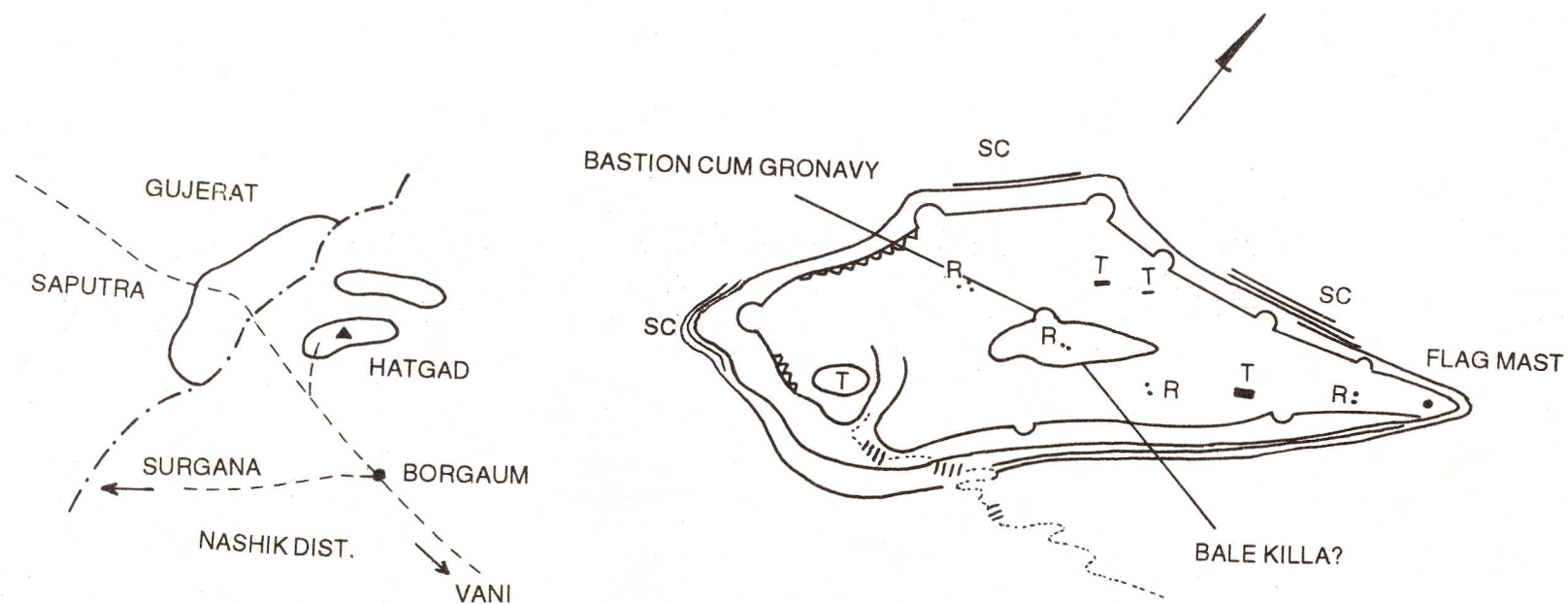


Fig. 10 : Fort Hatgad

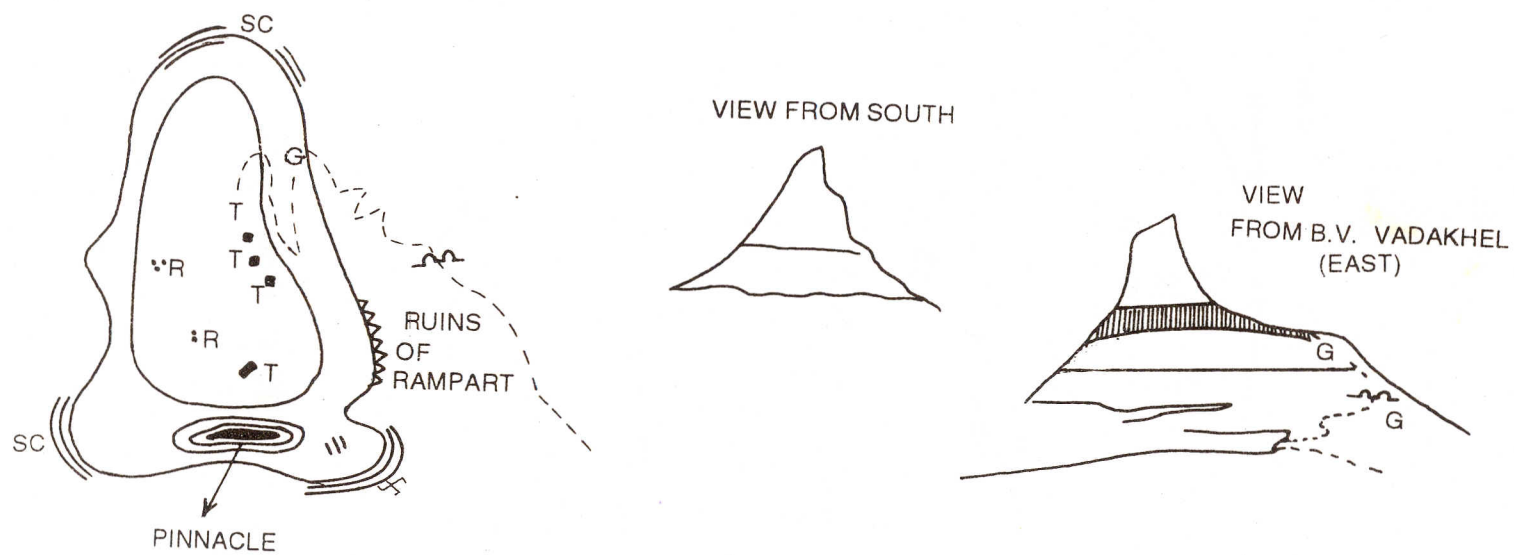


Fig. 11 : Nhavi Killa

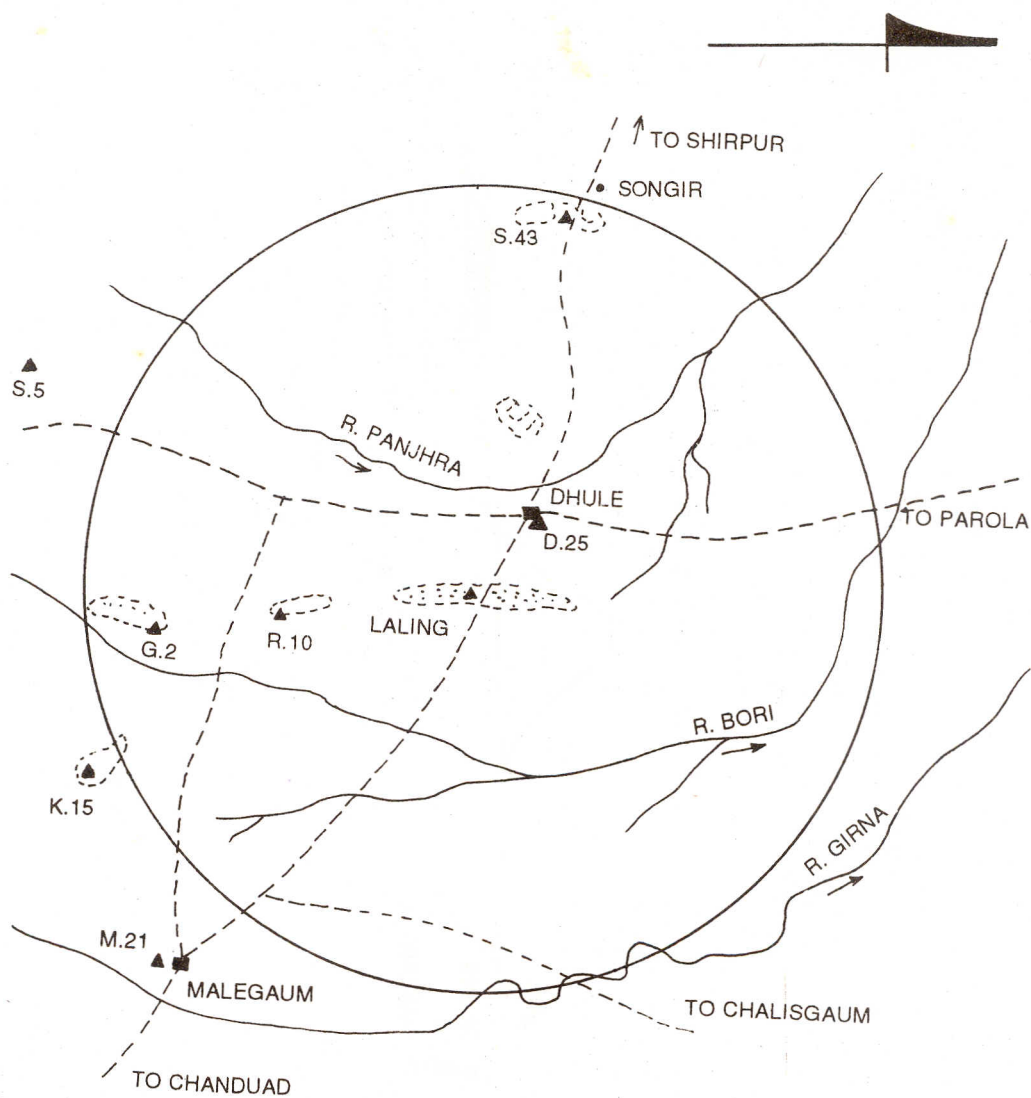


Fig. 12 : The Laling Cluster

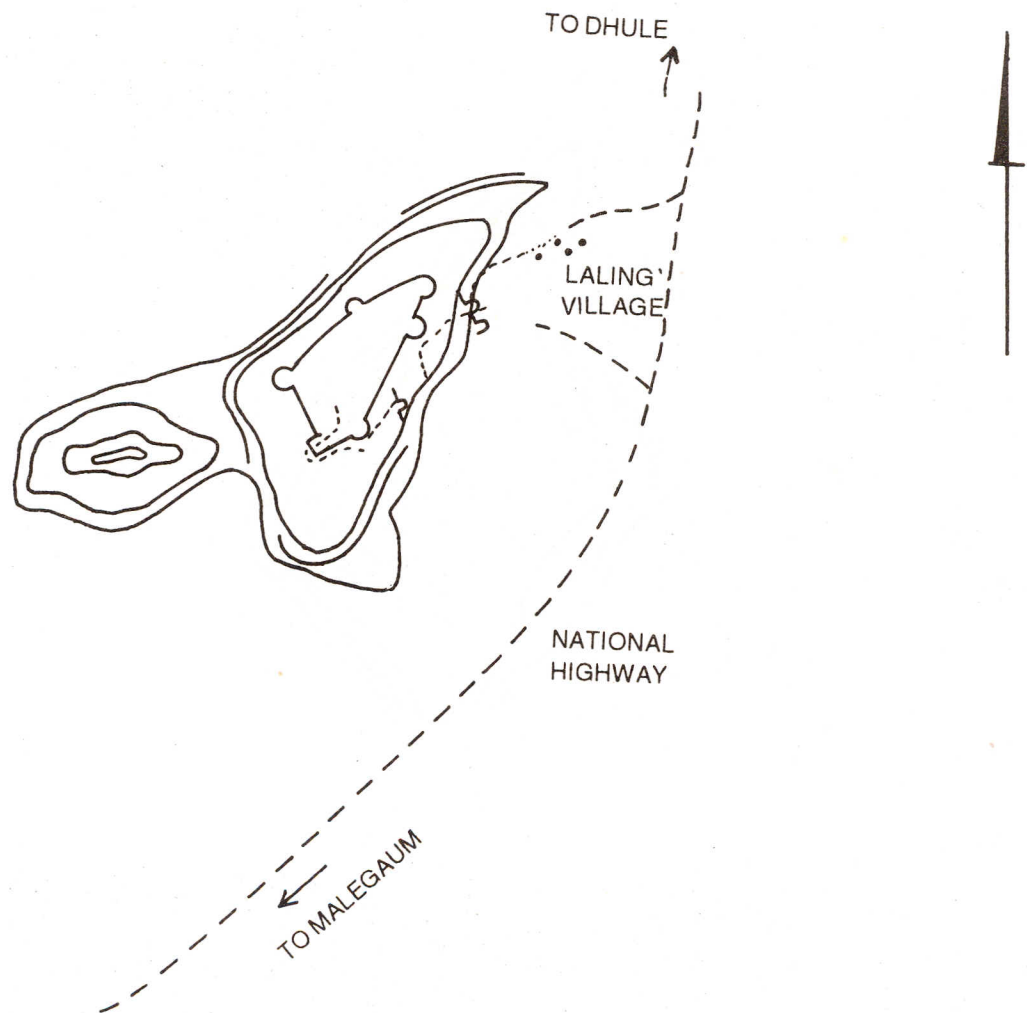


Fig. 13 : Fort Laling

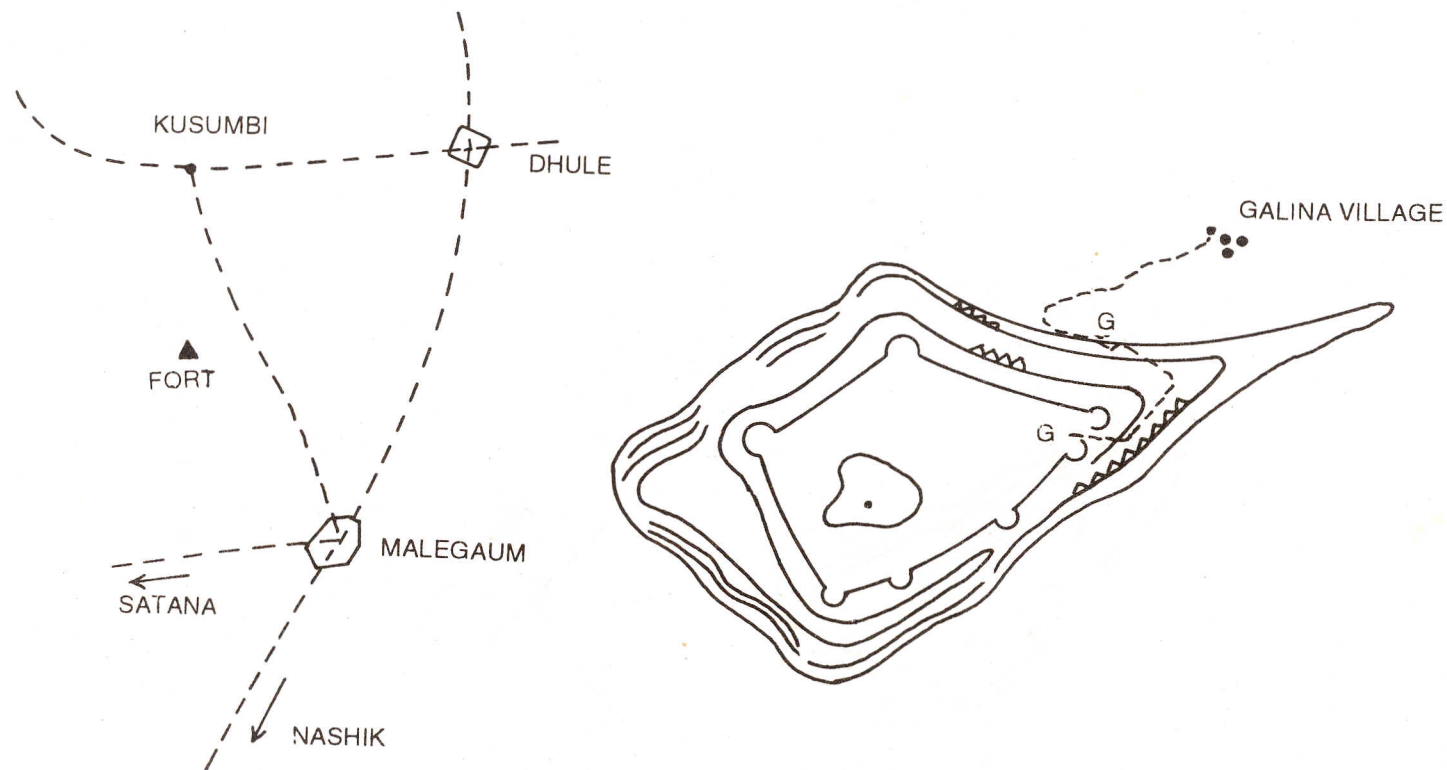
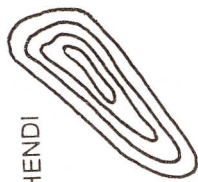


Fig. 14 : Fort Galna

Figures



NADBHI-CHI SHENDI

KATARWADI

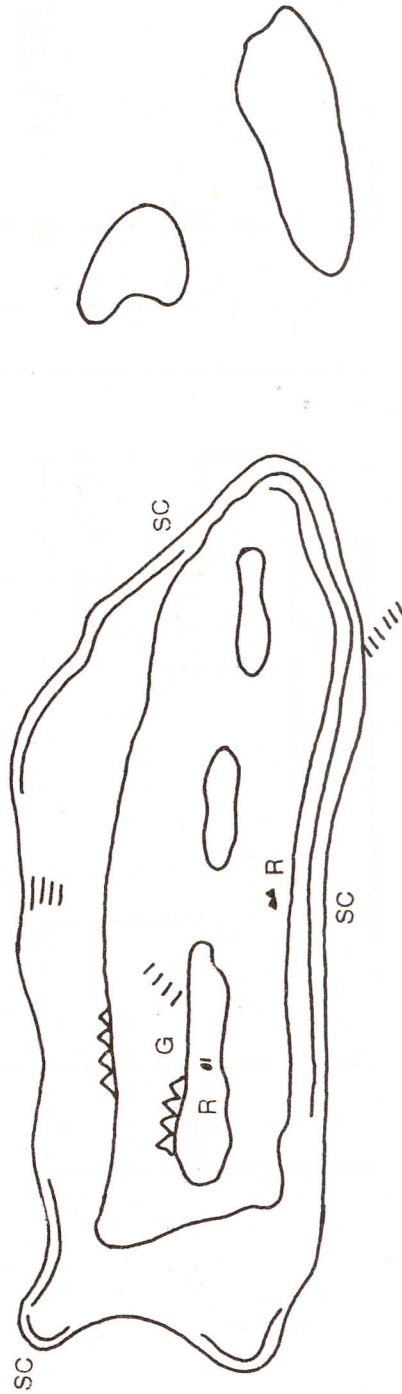


Fig. 15 : Fort Kankadri

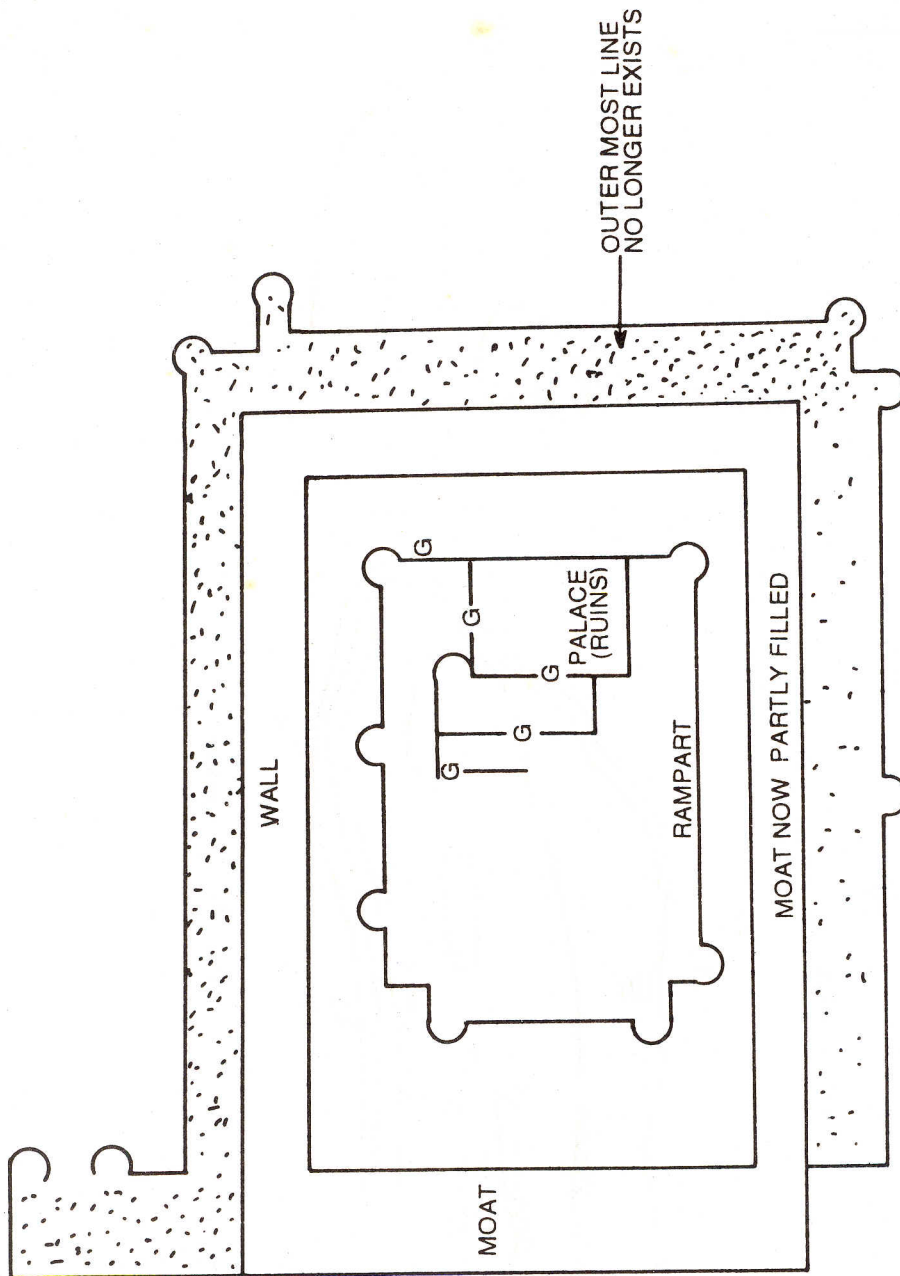


Fig. 16 : Fort Malegaum

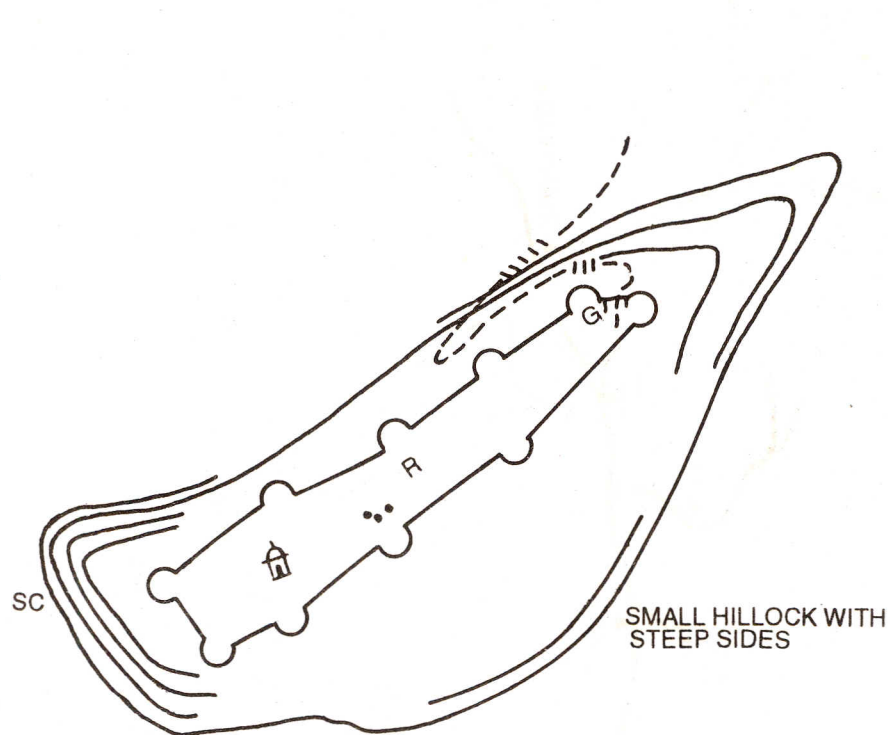


Fig. 17 : Fort Songir

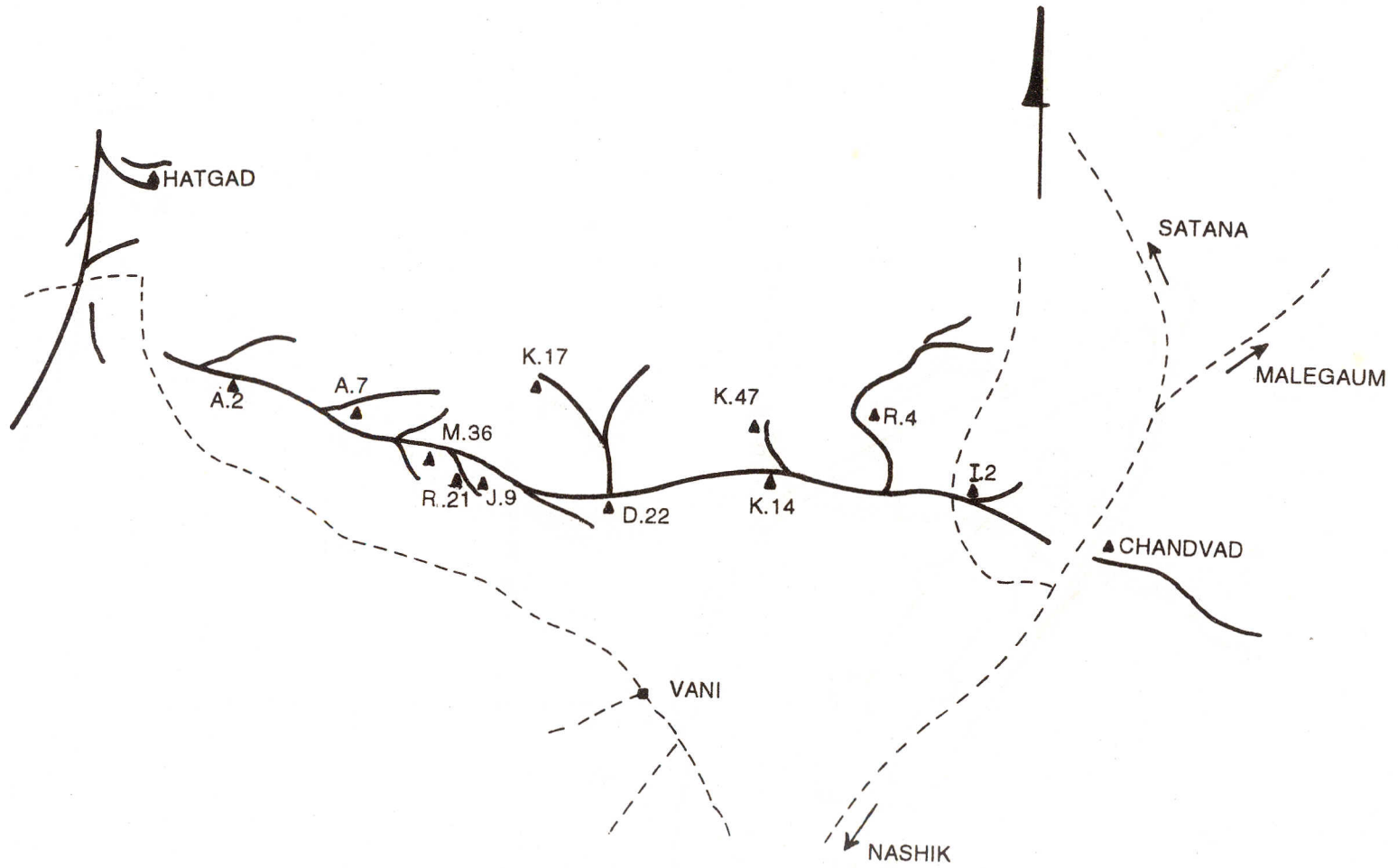


Fig. 18 : The Chandad Cluster

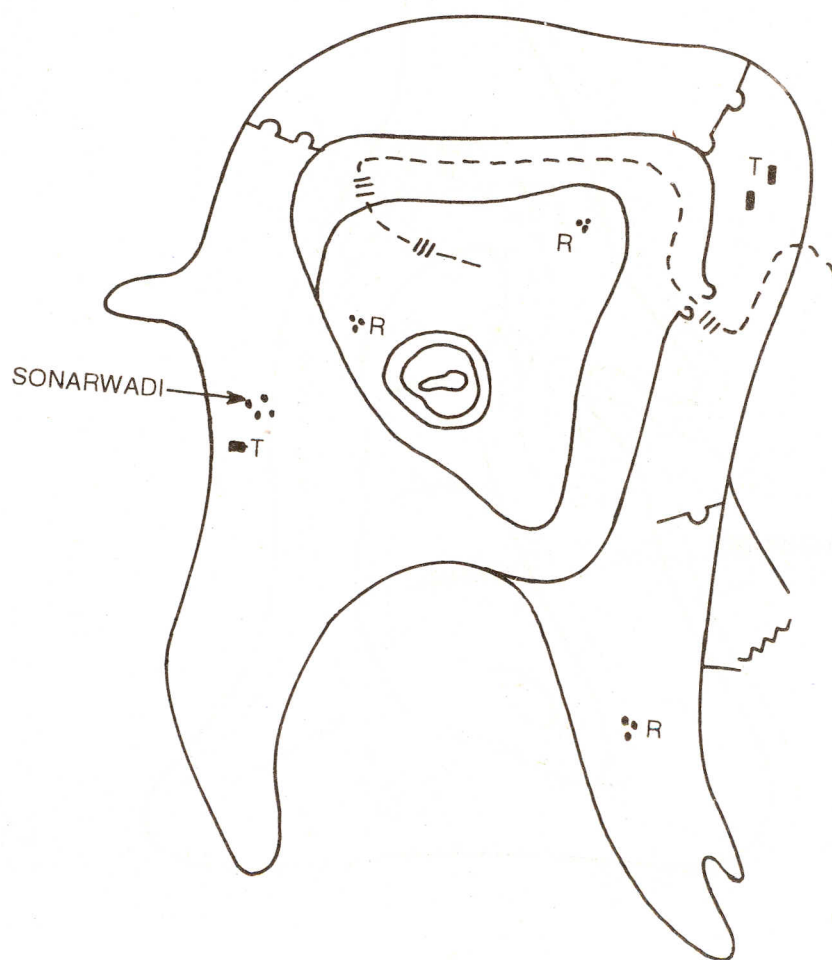


Fig. 19 : Fort Dhodap

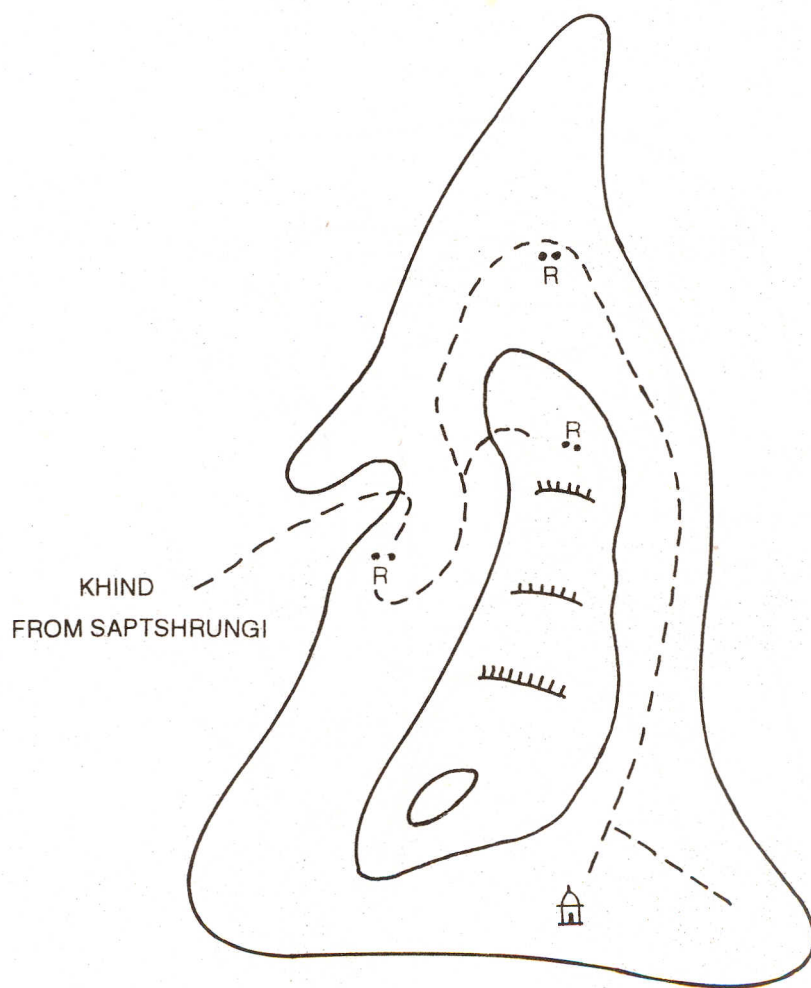


Fig. 20 : Fort Markandya



Fig. 21 : The Ankai Cluster Total Fort 9

400

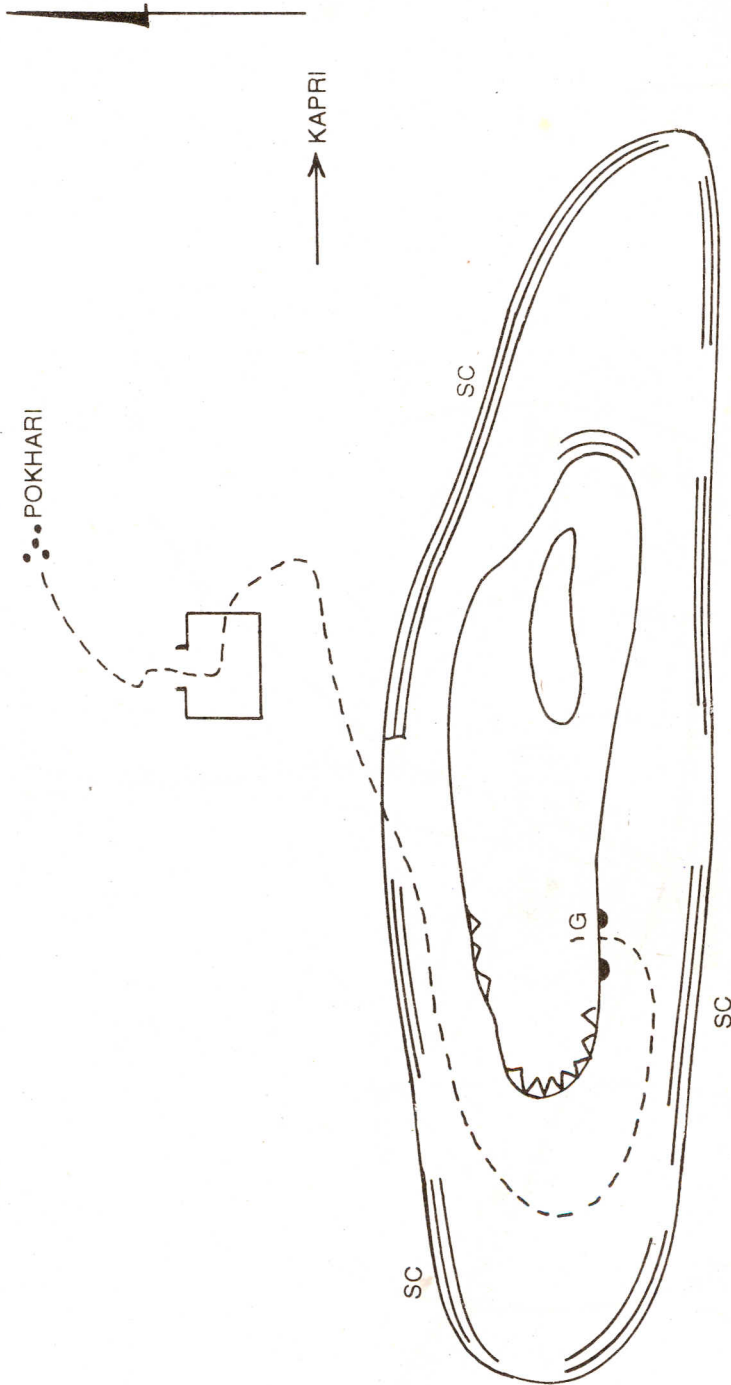


Fig. 22 : Fort Manikpunj

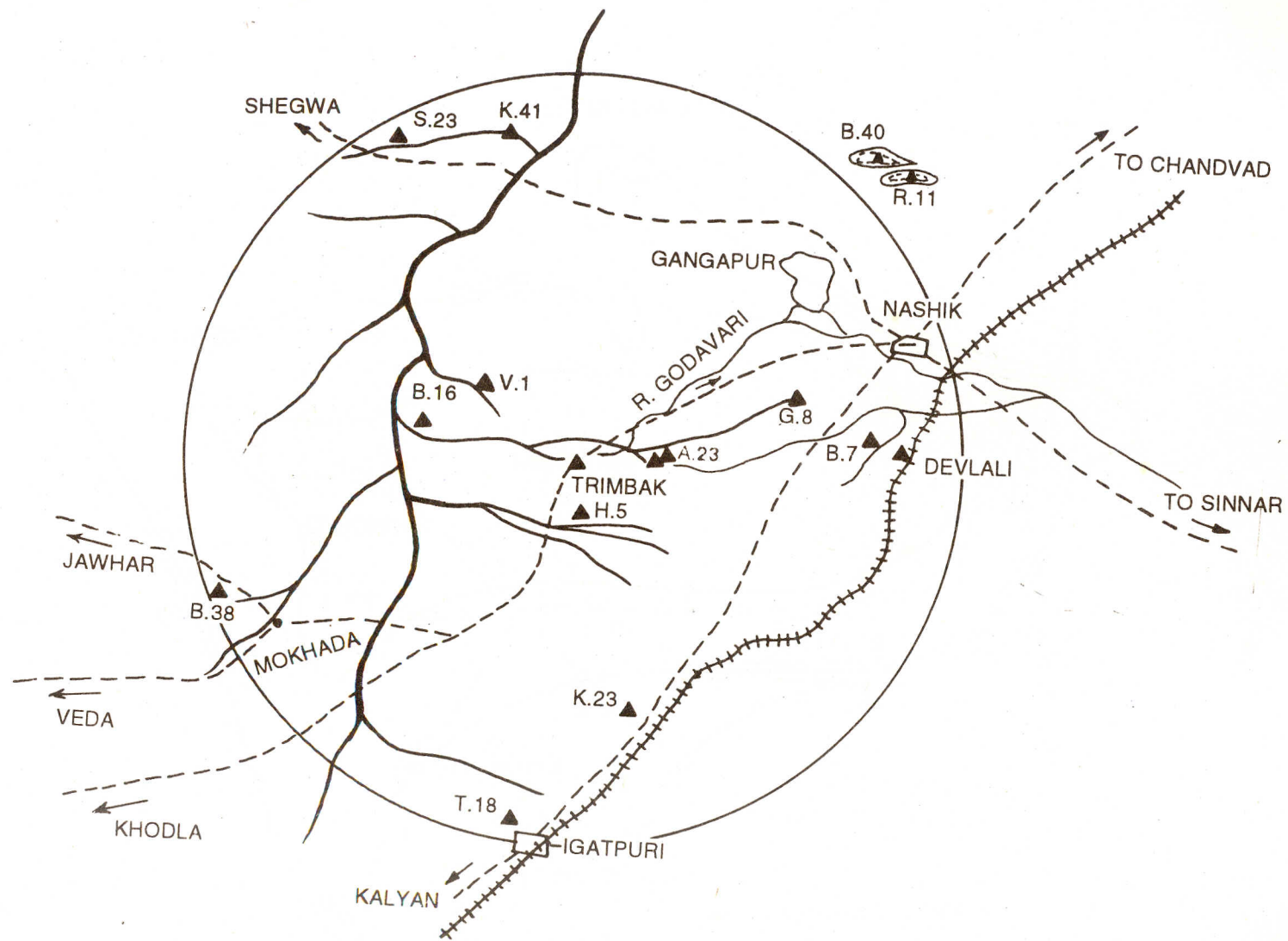


Fig. 23 : The Trimbak Cluster Total Forts 14

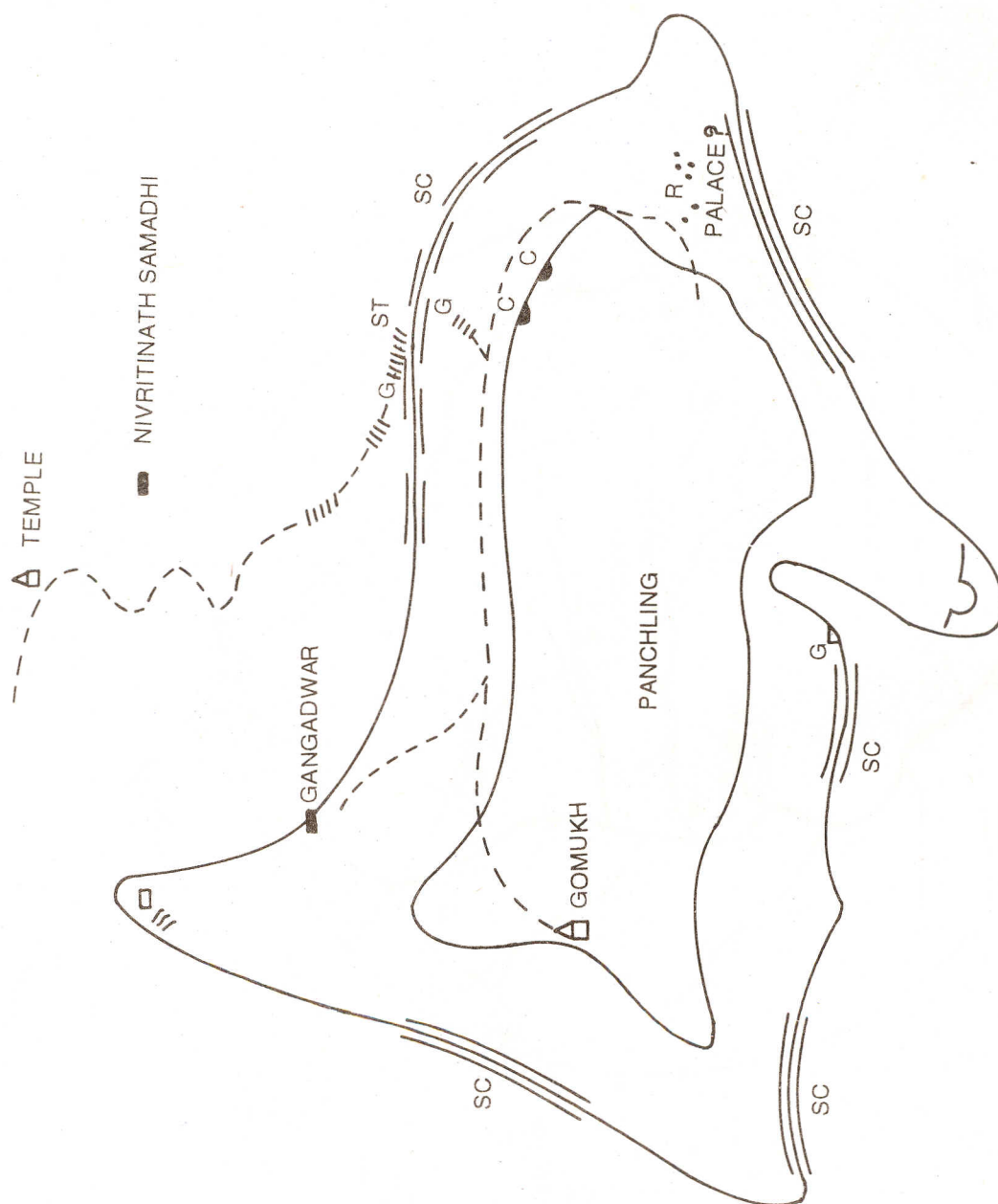


Fig. 24: Fort Trimbak

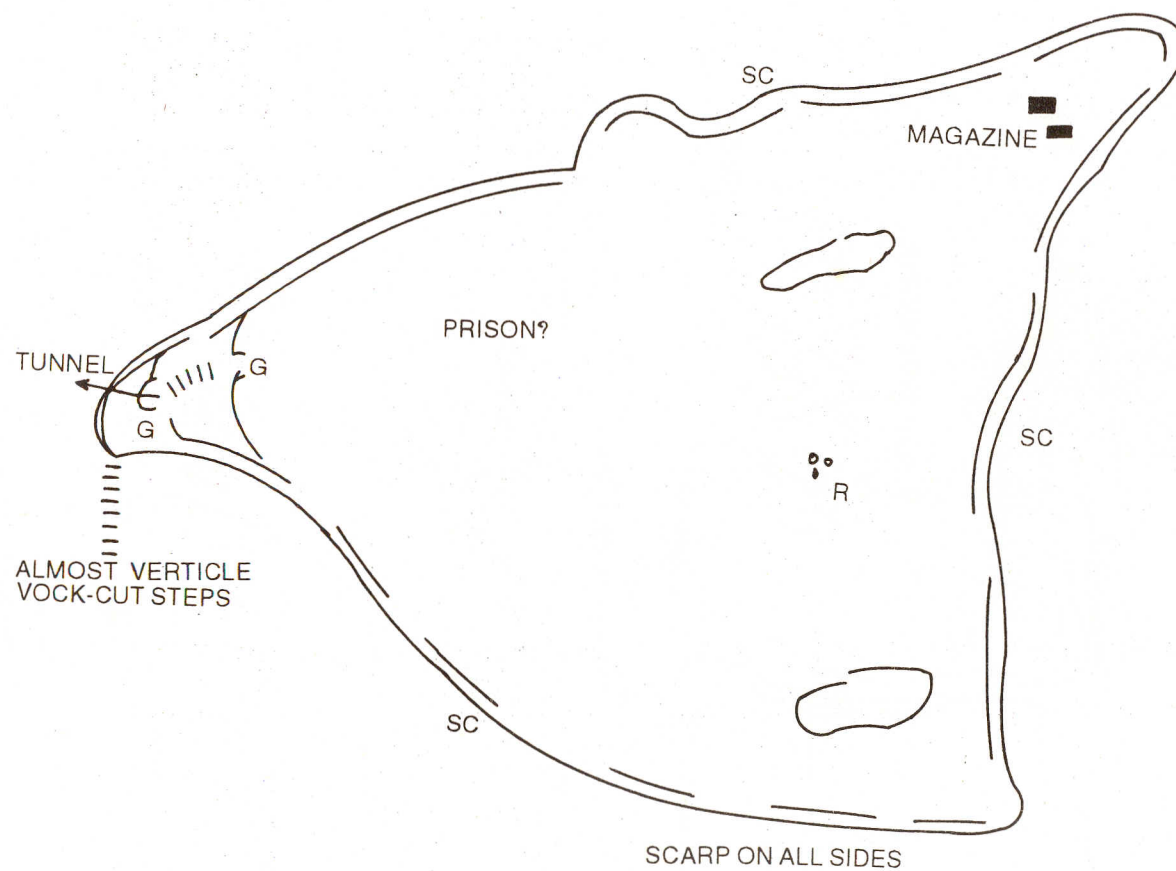


Fig. 25 : Fort Harshgad

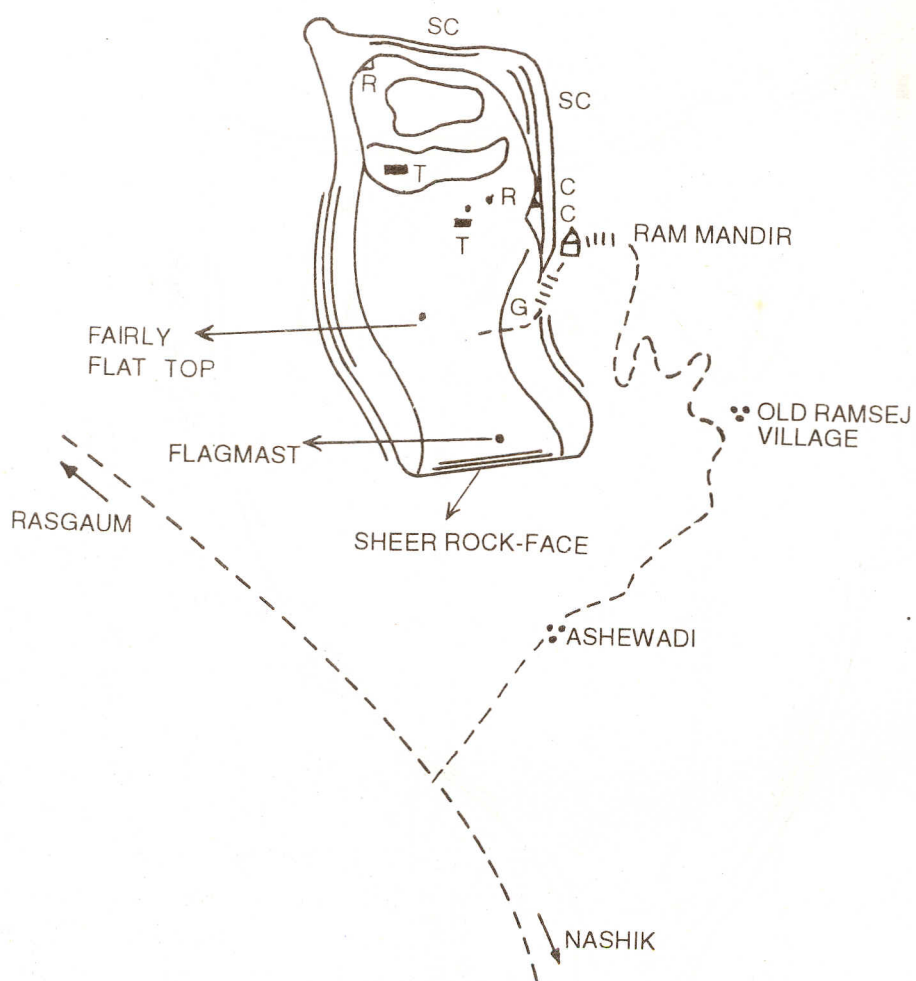


Fig. 26 : Fort Ramsej

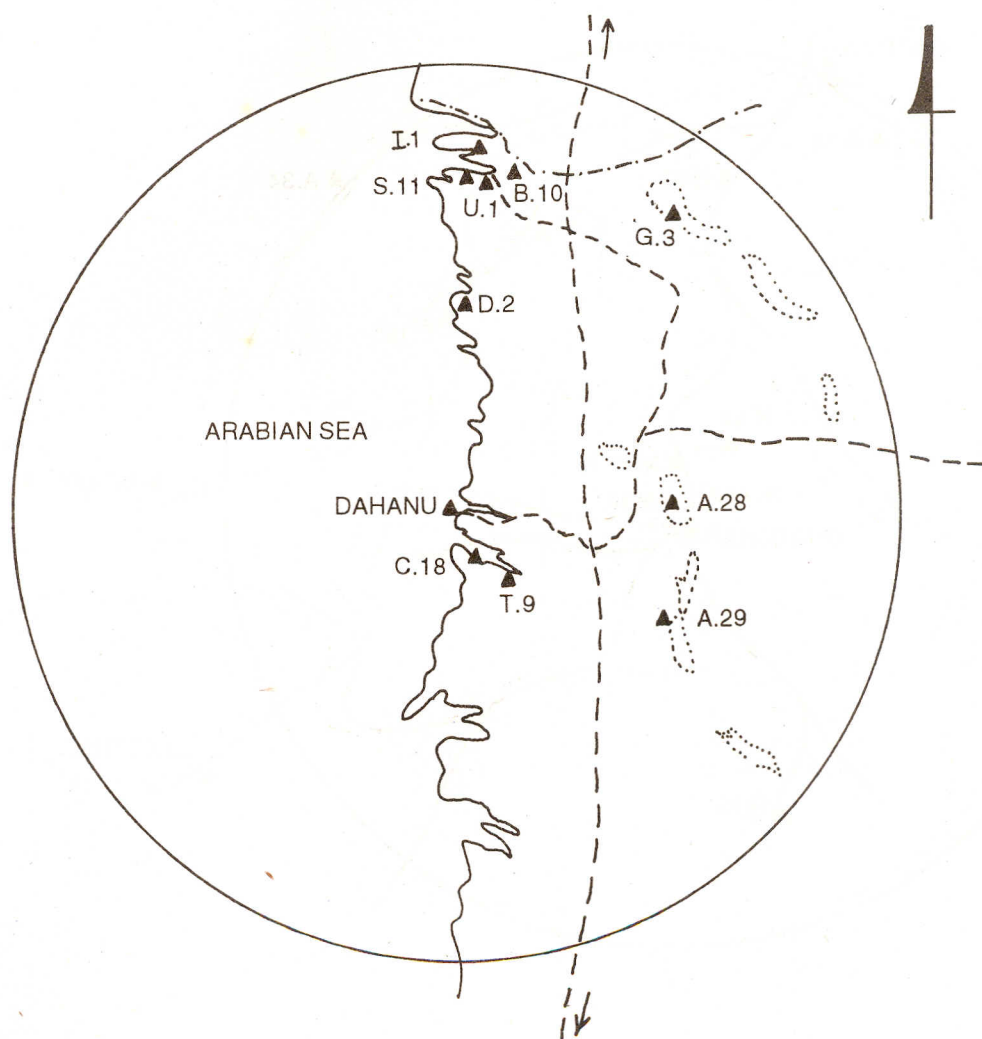


Fig. 27 : The Dahanu Cluster Total Forts 11

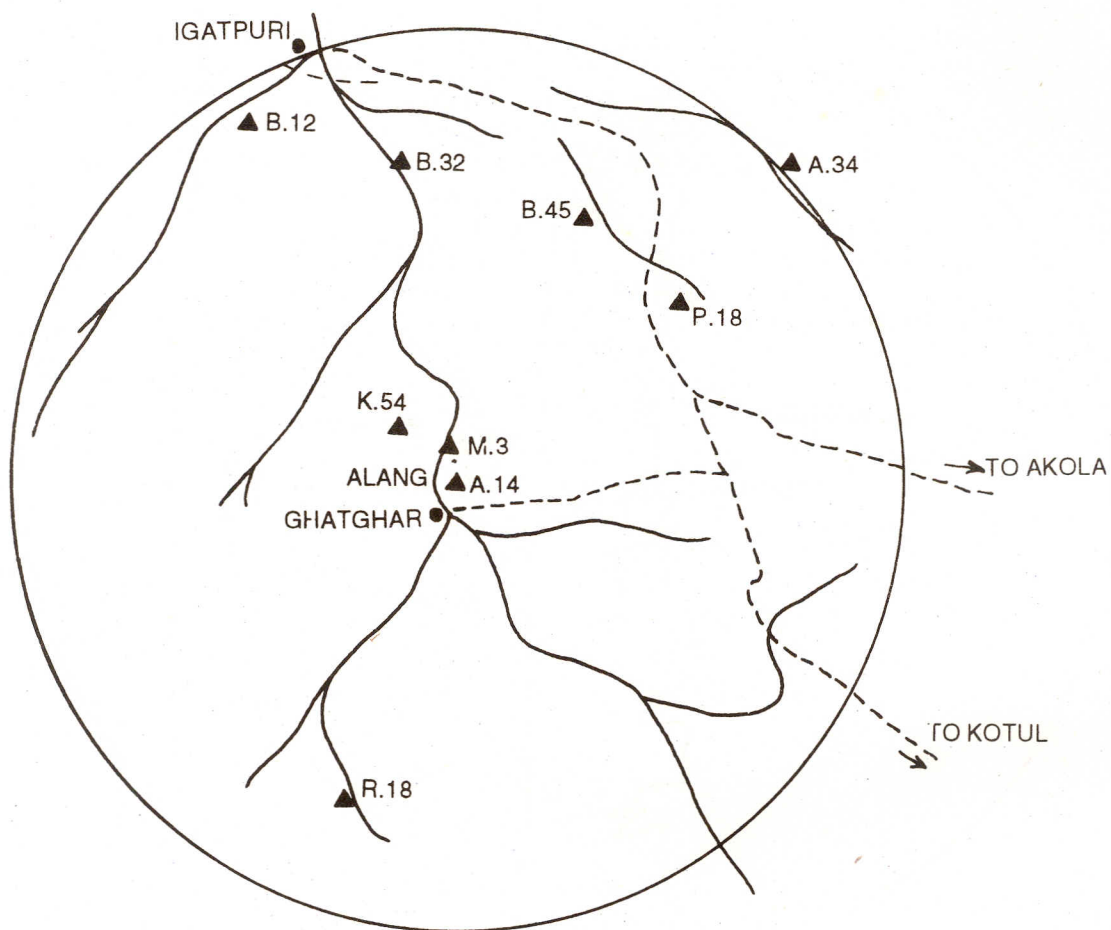


Fig. 28 : The Alang Cluster Total Forts 9

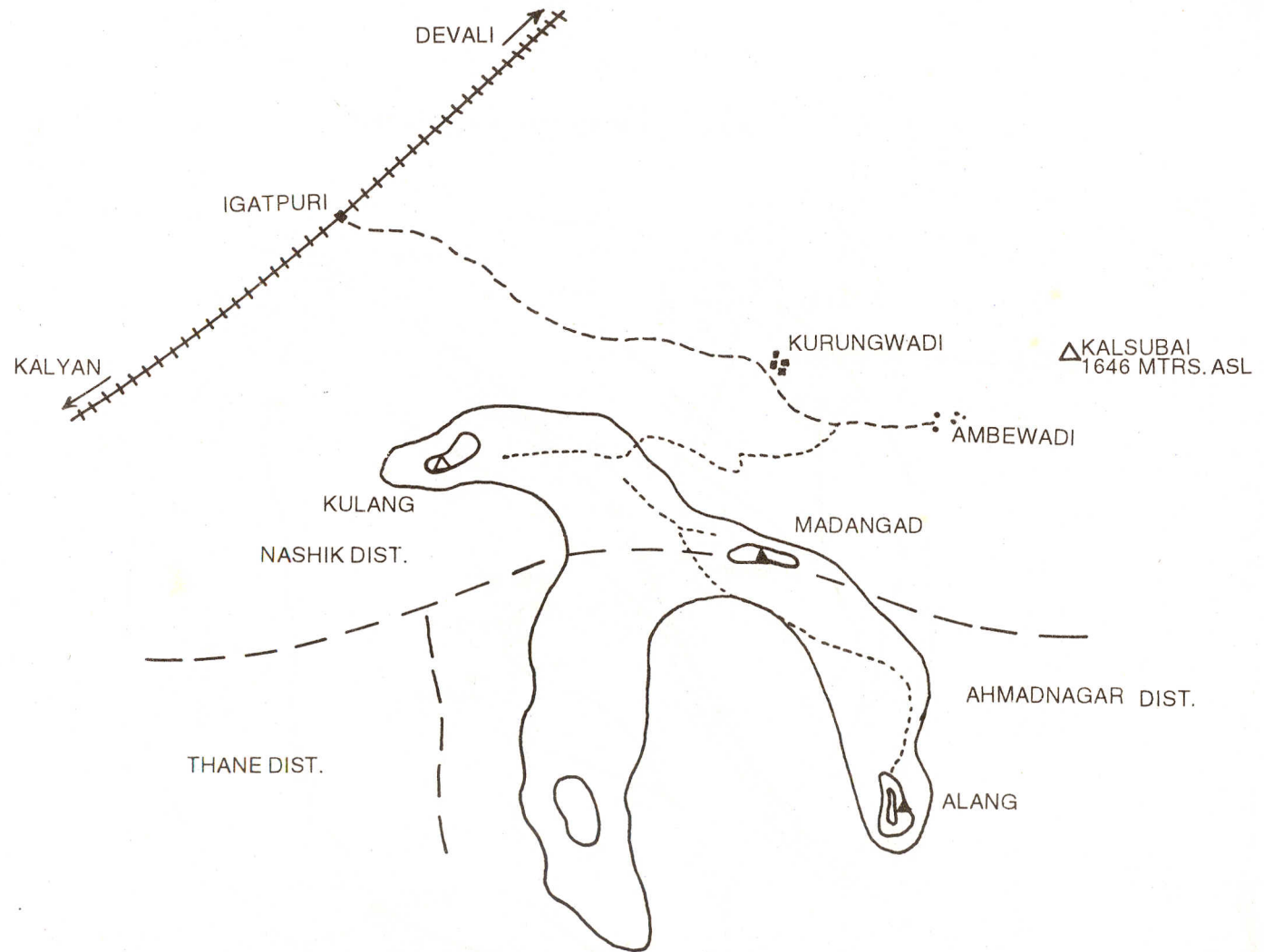


Fig. 29 : Forts Alang, Kulang and Madangad

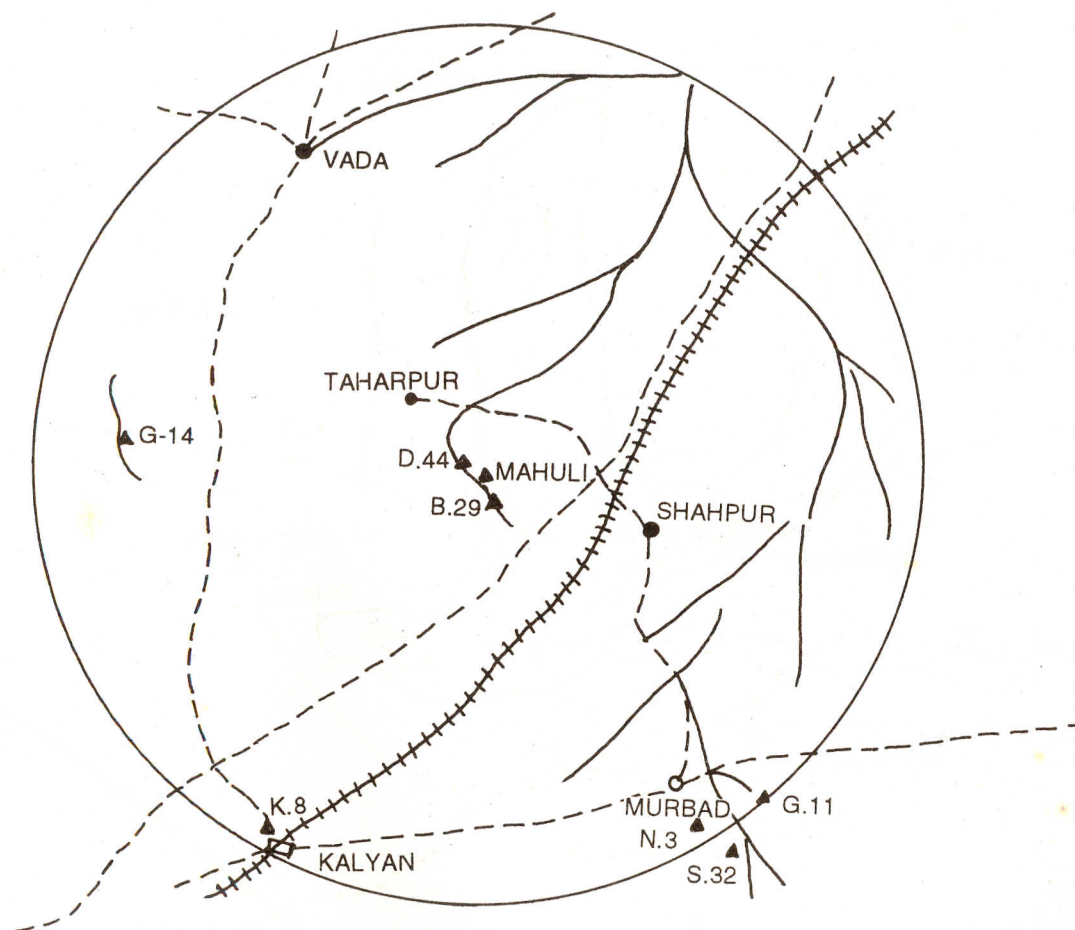


Fig. 30 : The Mahuli Cluster Total Forts 8

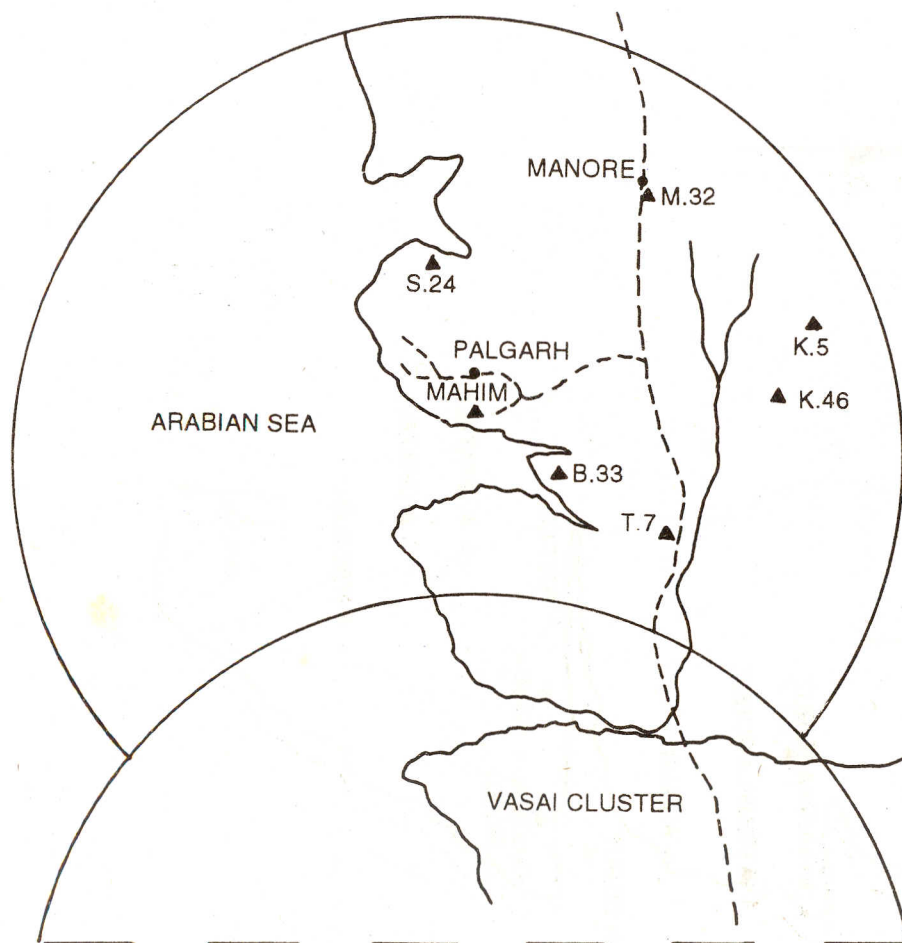


Fig. 31 : The Mahim Cluster Total Forts 7

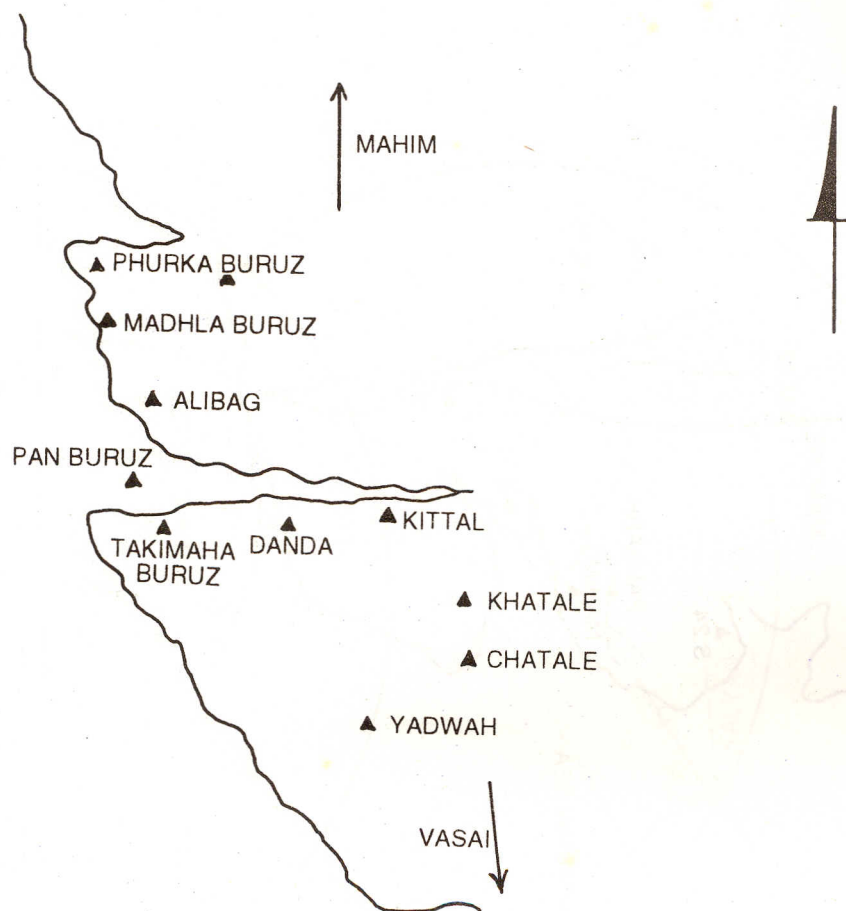


Fig. 32 : The Mahim Group of Forts

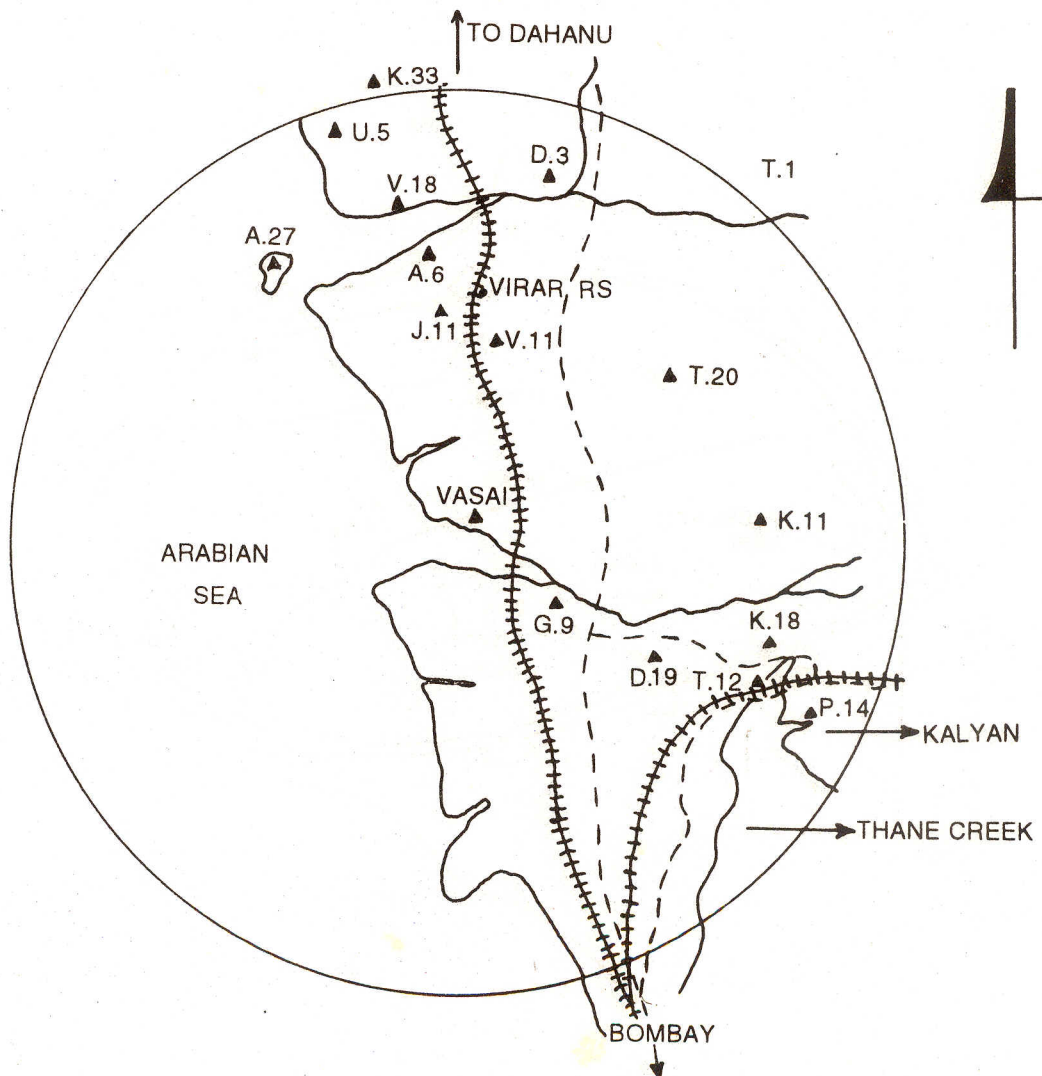
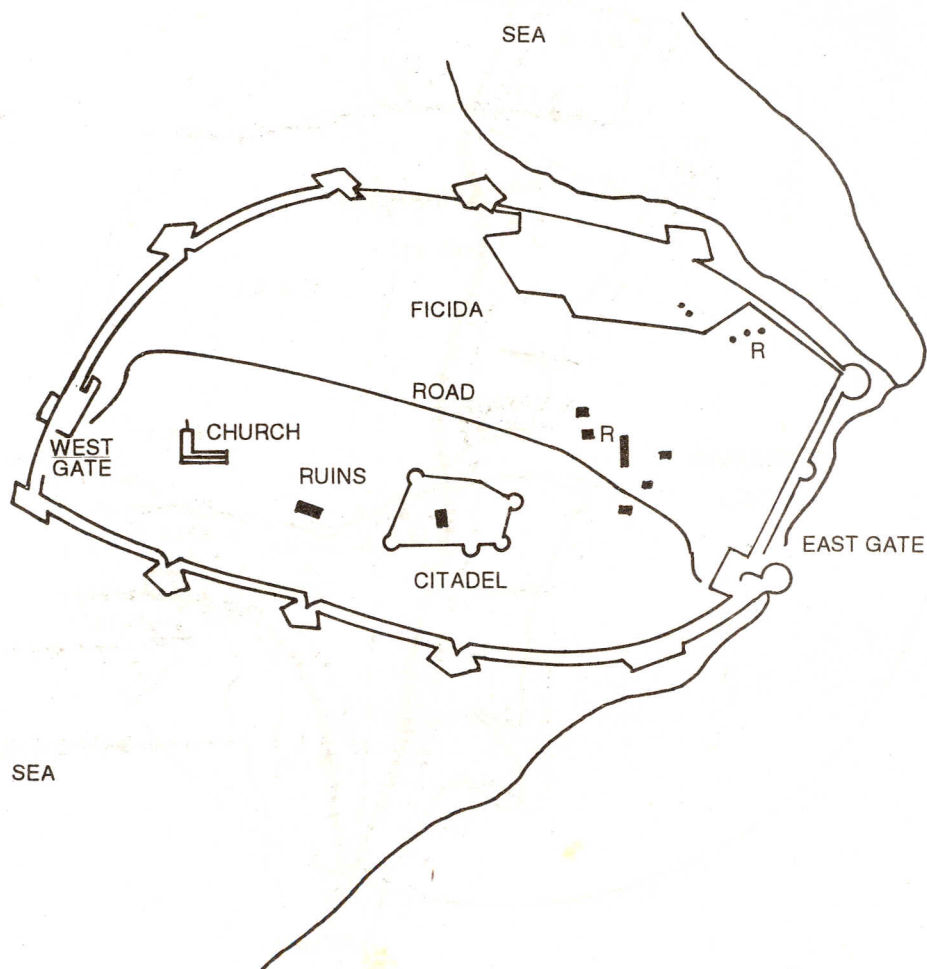


Fig. 33 : The Vasai Cluster Total Forts 18

**Fig. 34 : Fort Vasai**

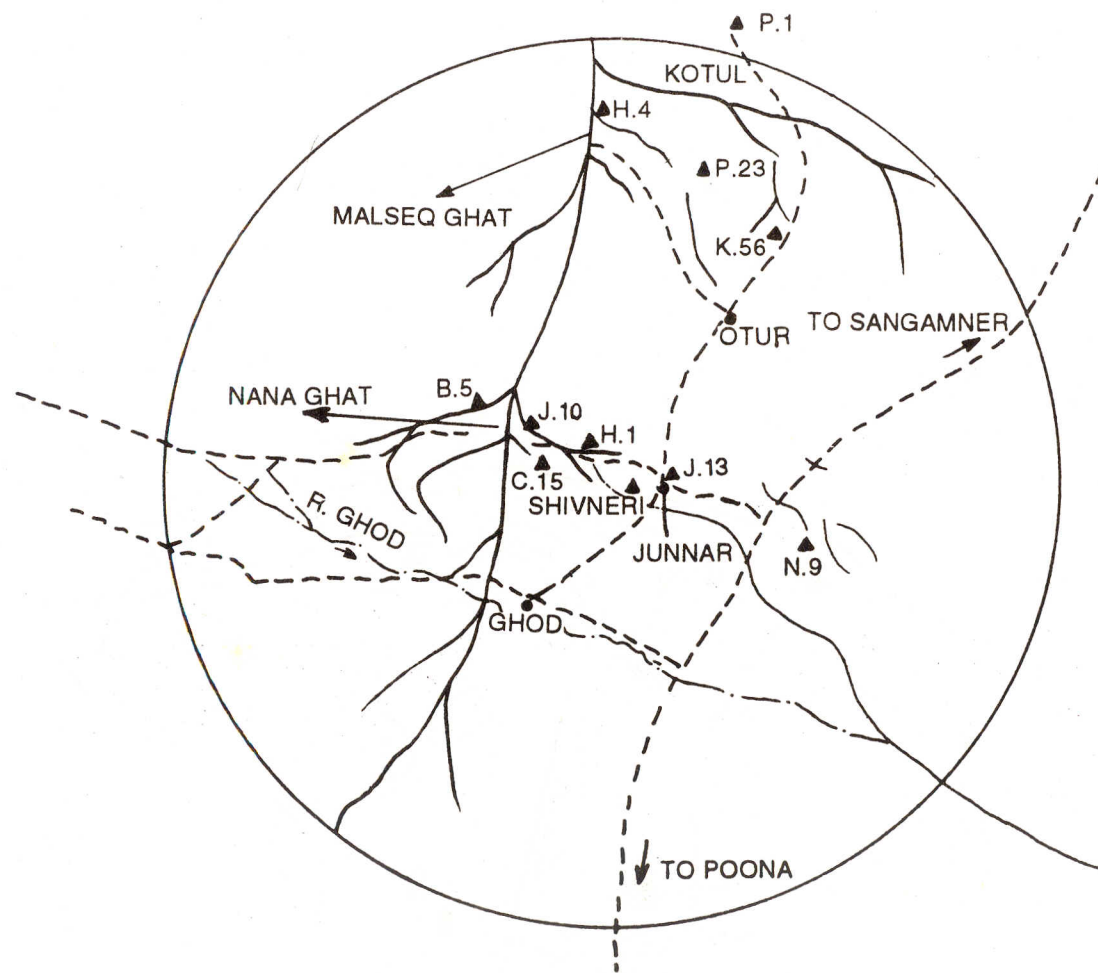


Fig. 35 : The Shivneri Cluster Total Forts 11



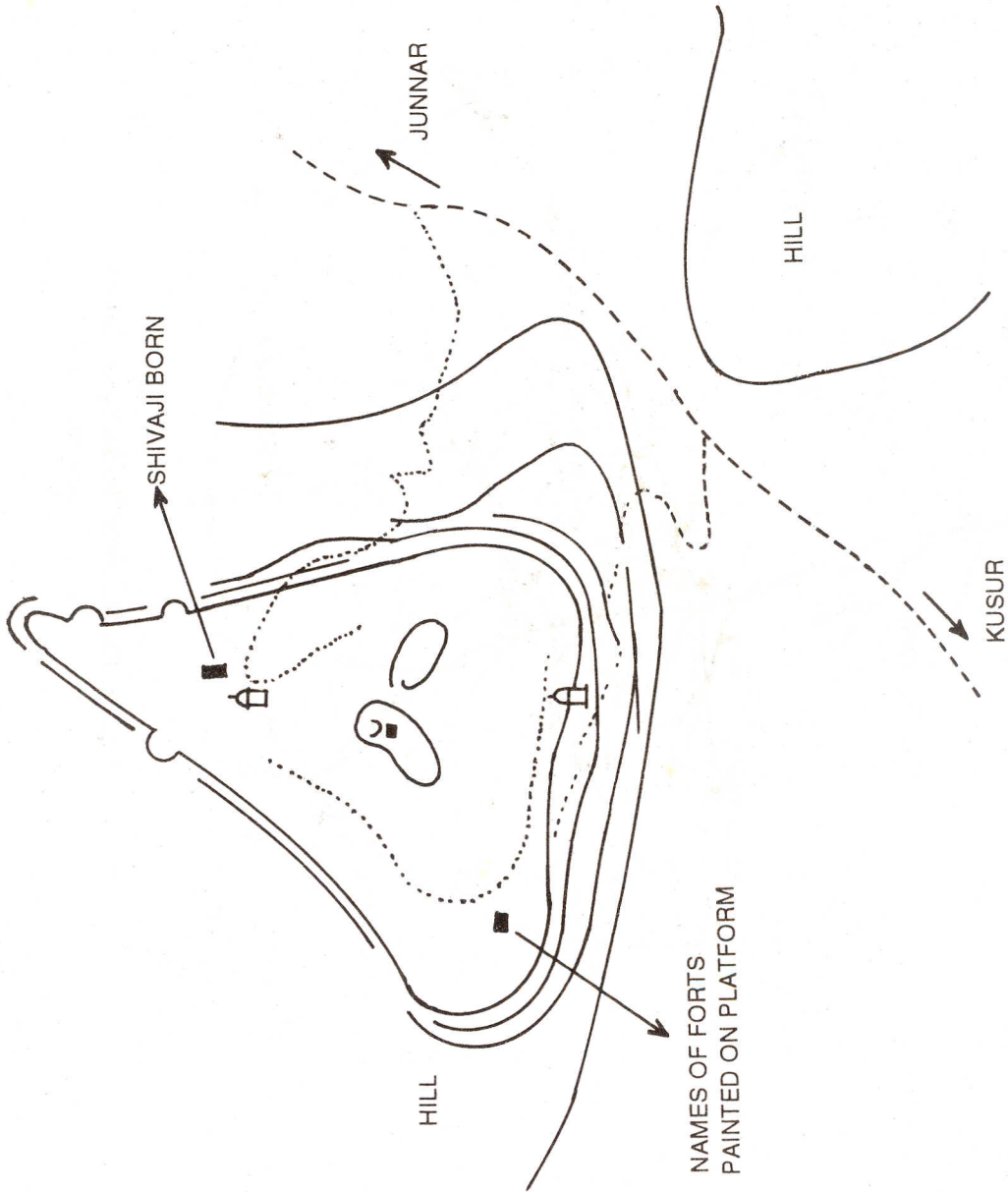


Fig. 36 : Fort Shivneri

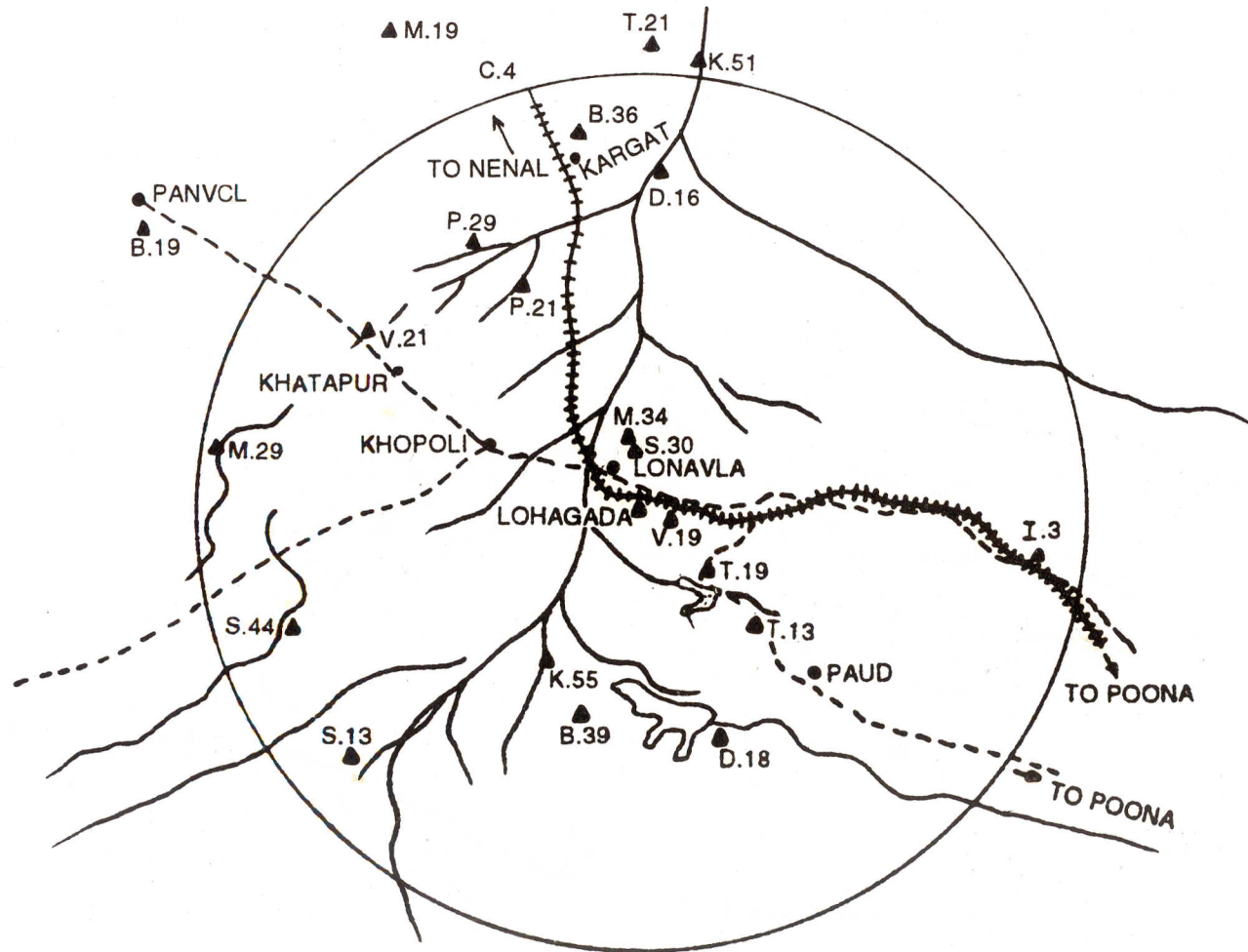


Fig. 37 : The Lohagad Cluster Total Forts 23

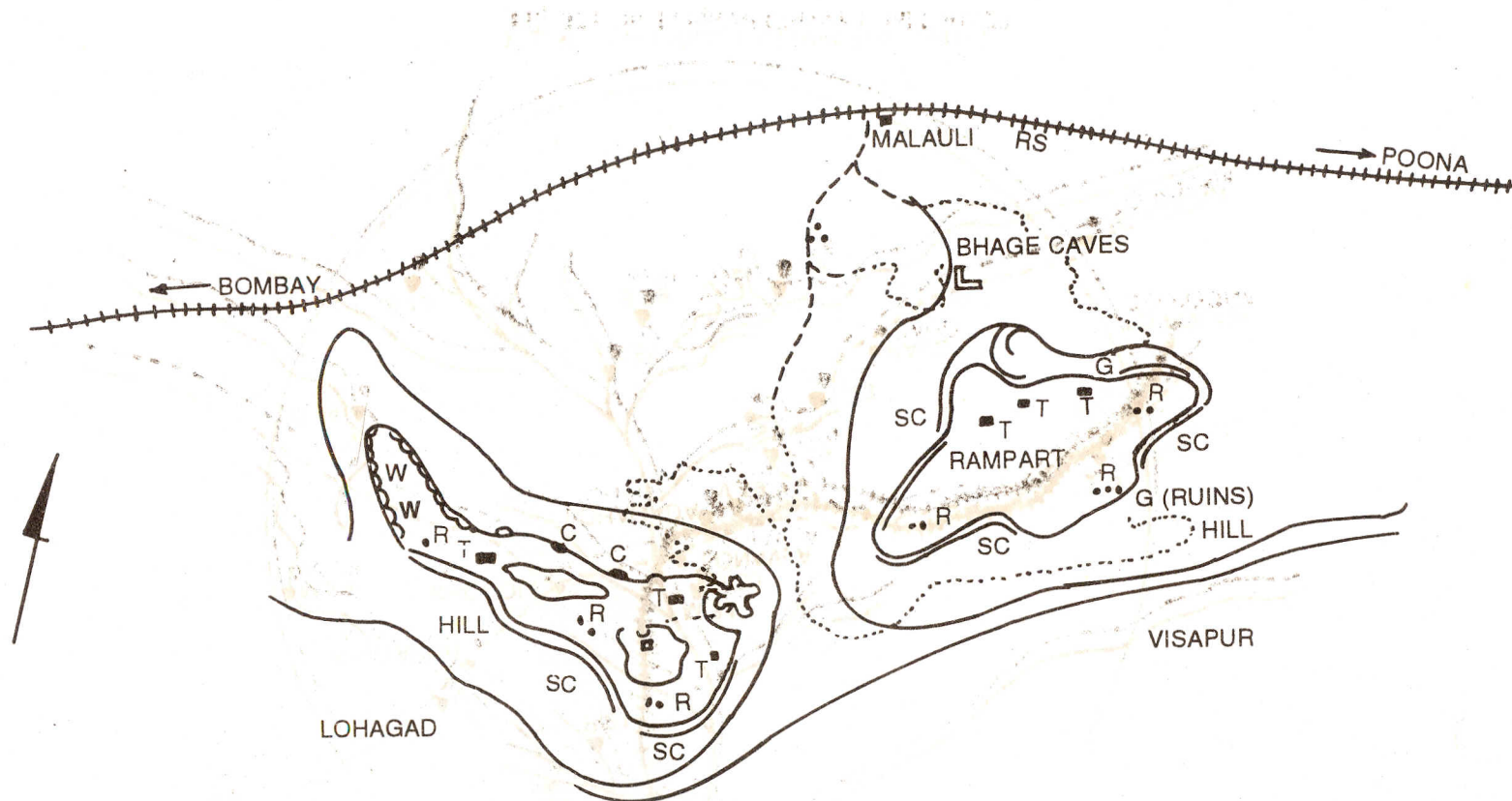


Fig. 38 : Forts Lohagad and Visapur

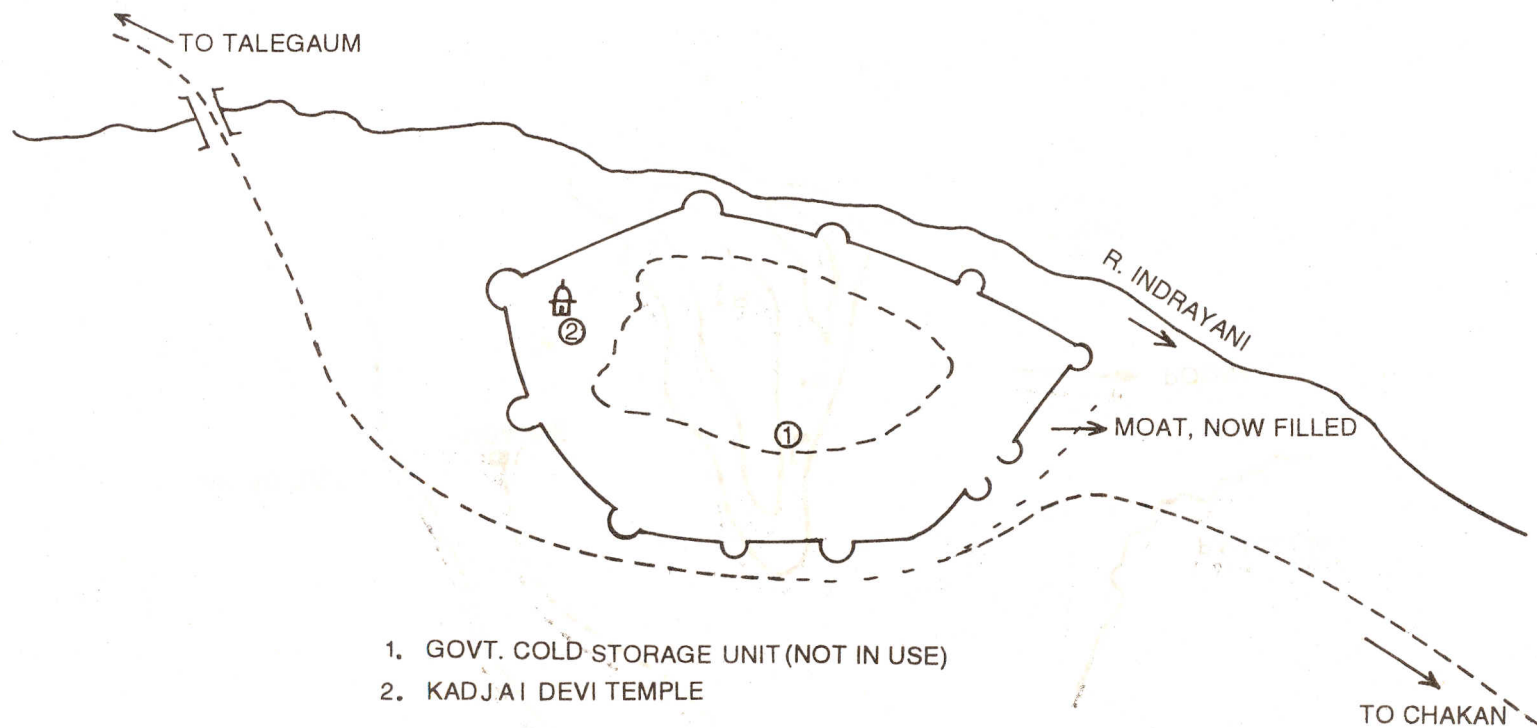


Fig. 39 : Fort Indori

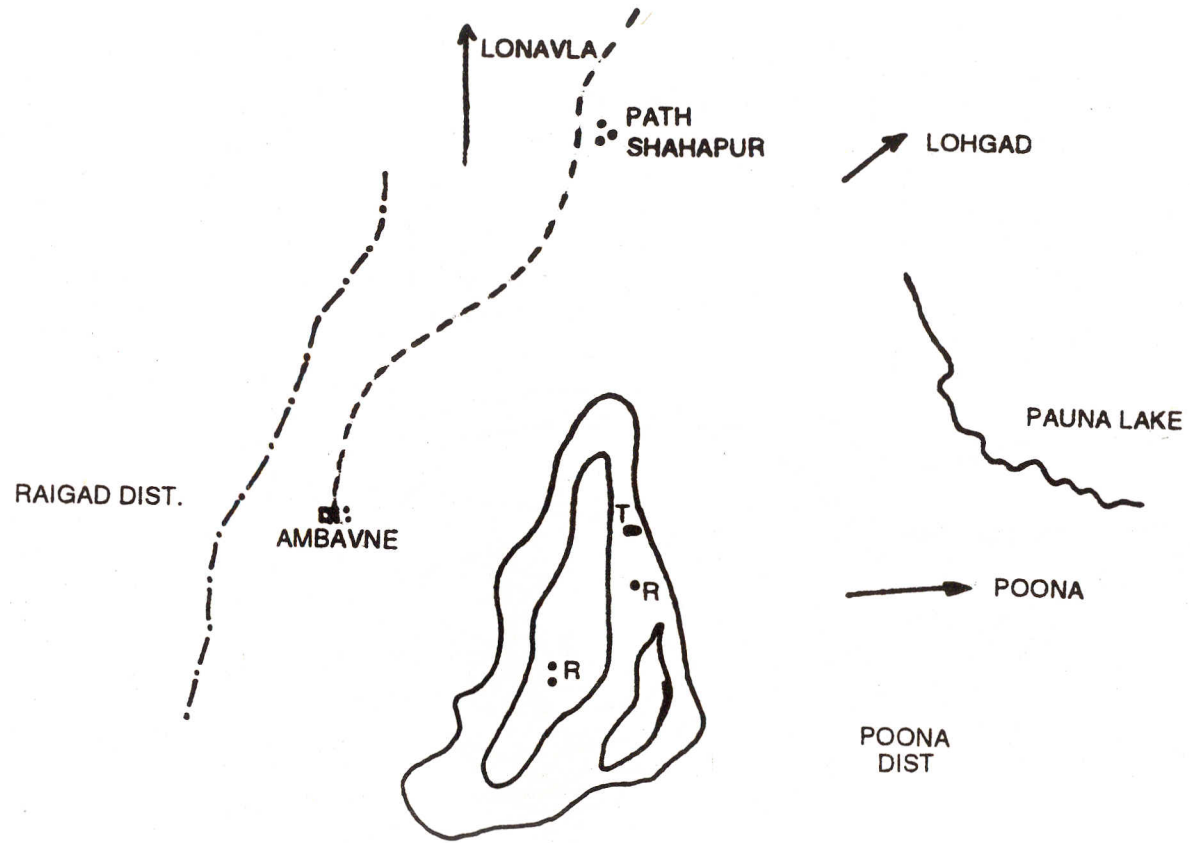


Fig. 40 : Fort Kumwarigad

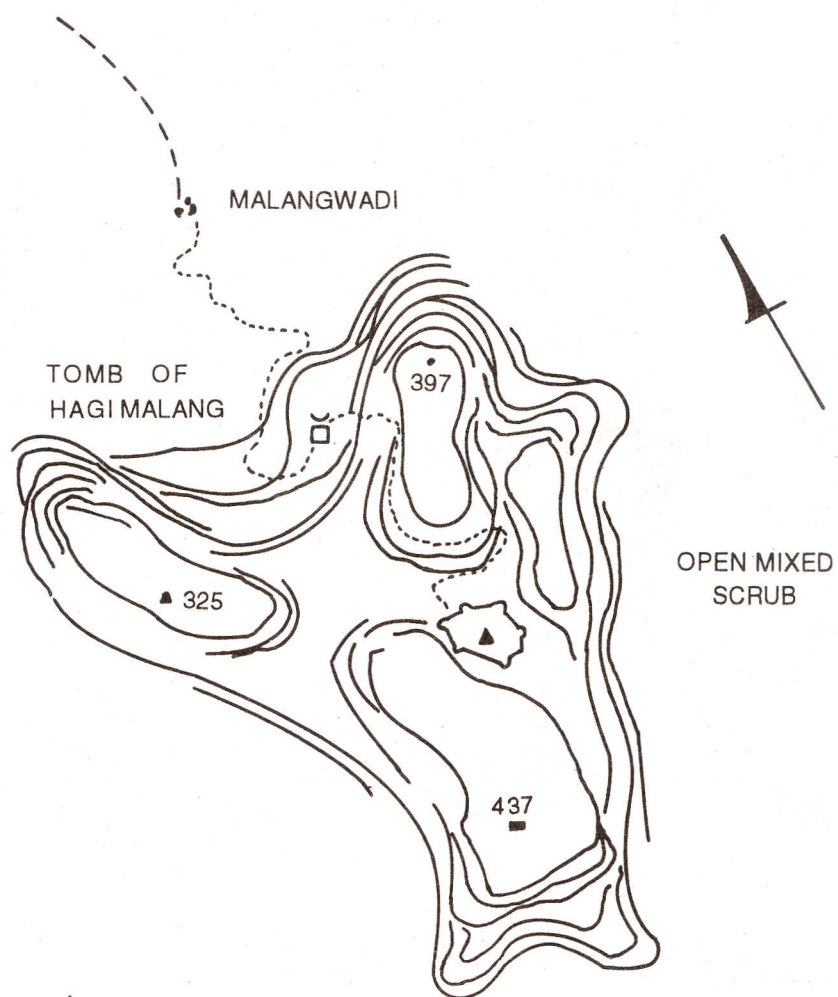
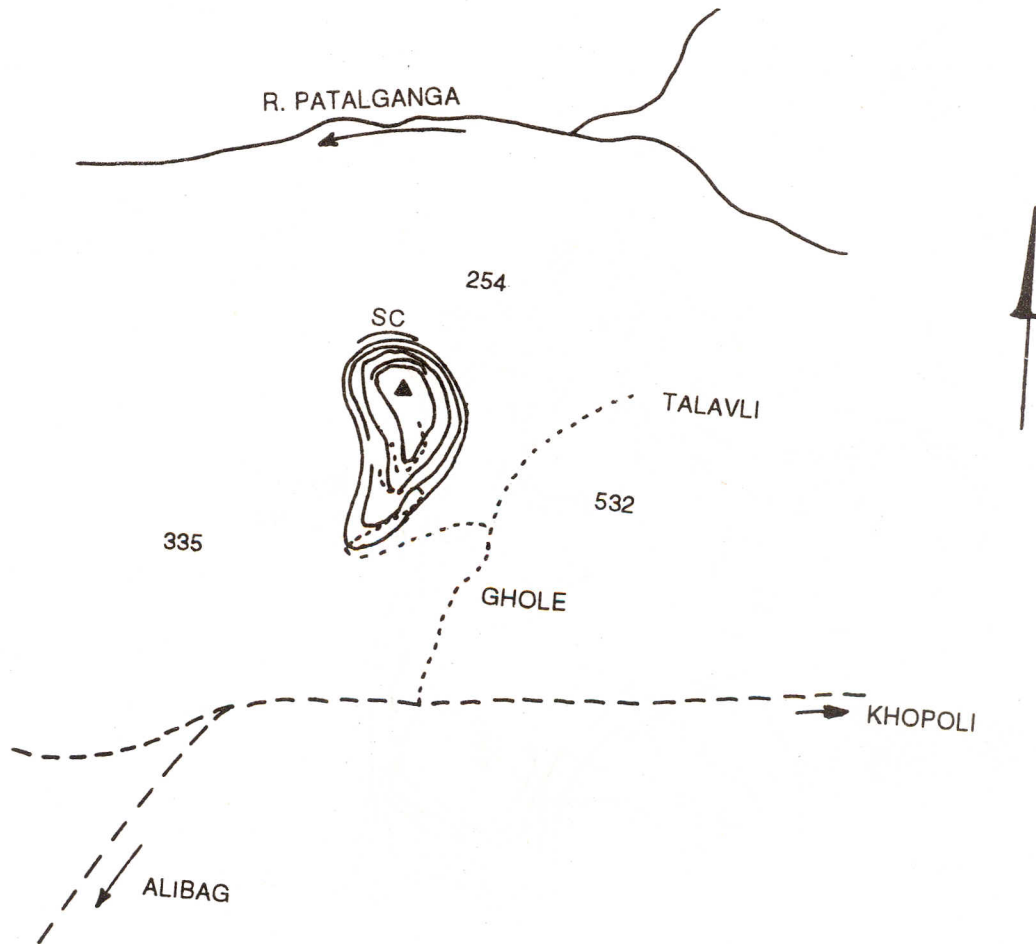


Fig. 41 : Fort Malang-Gad

**Fig. 42 : Fort Manikgad**

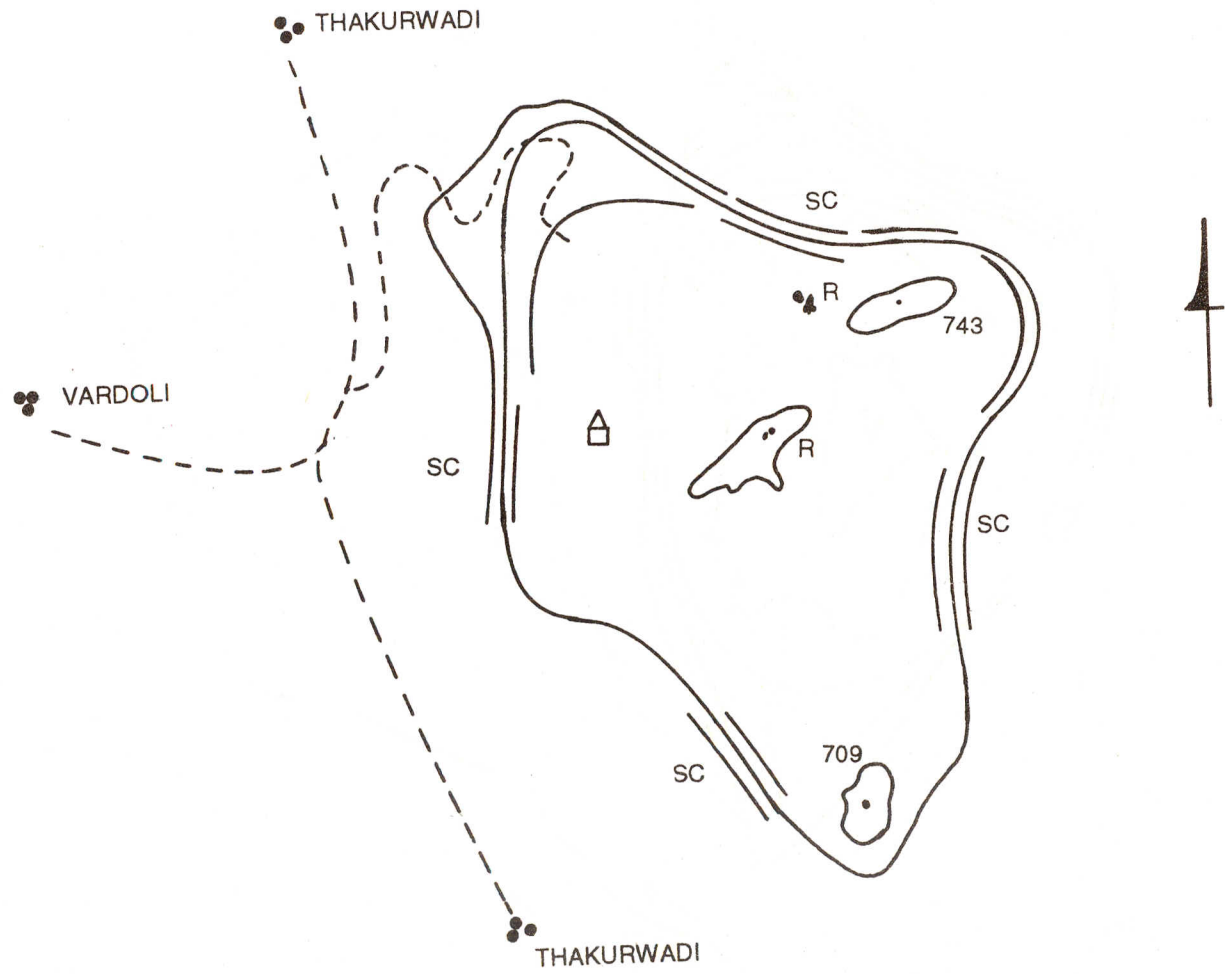


Fig. 43 : Fort Prabalgad

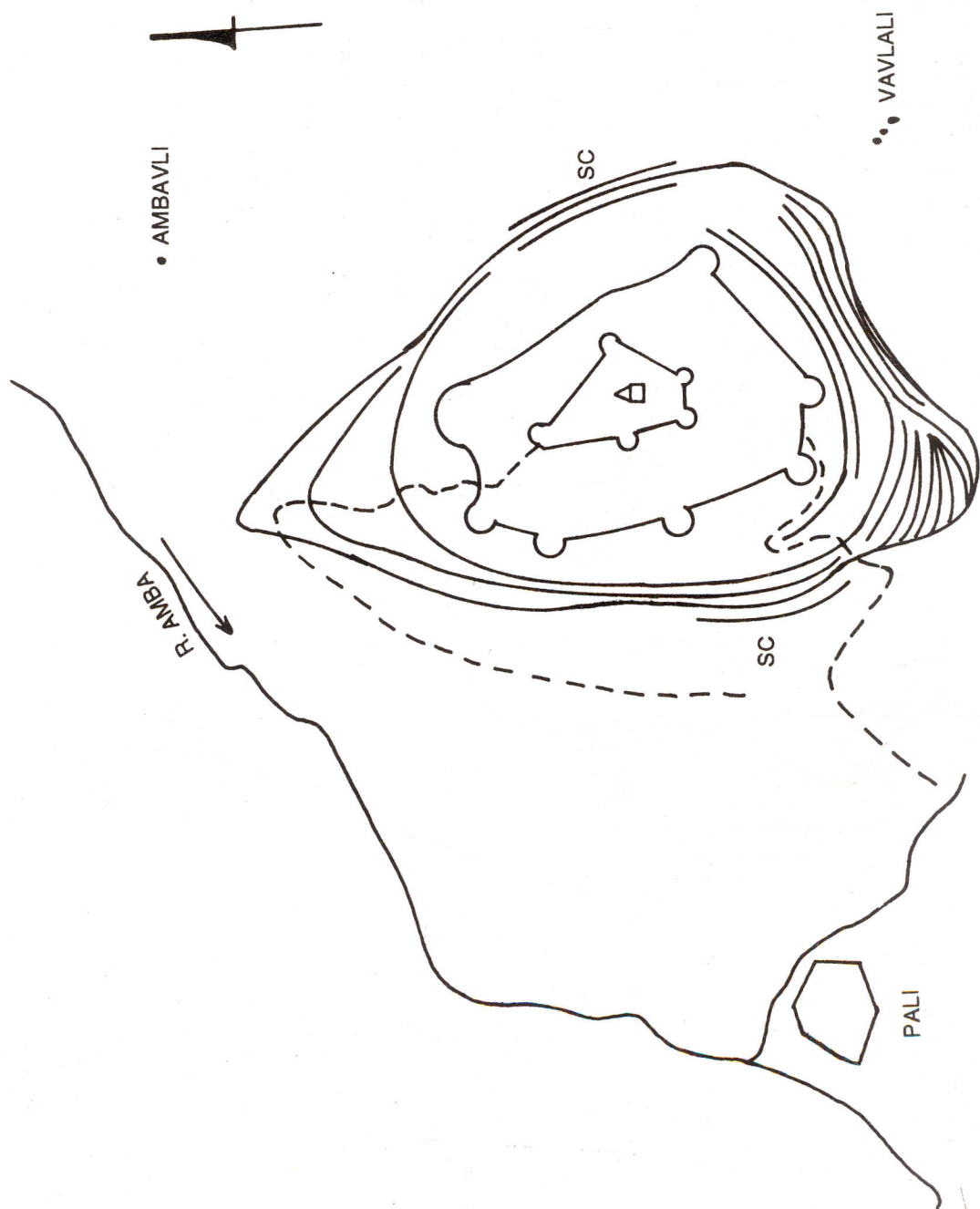


Fig. 44 : Fort Sarasgad

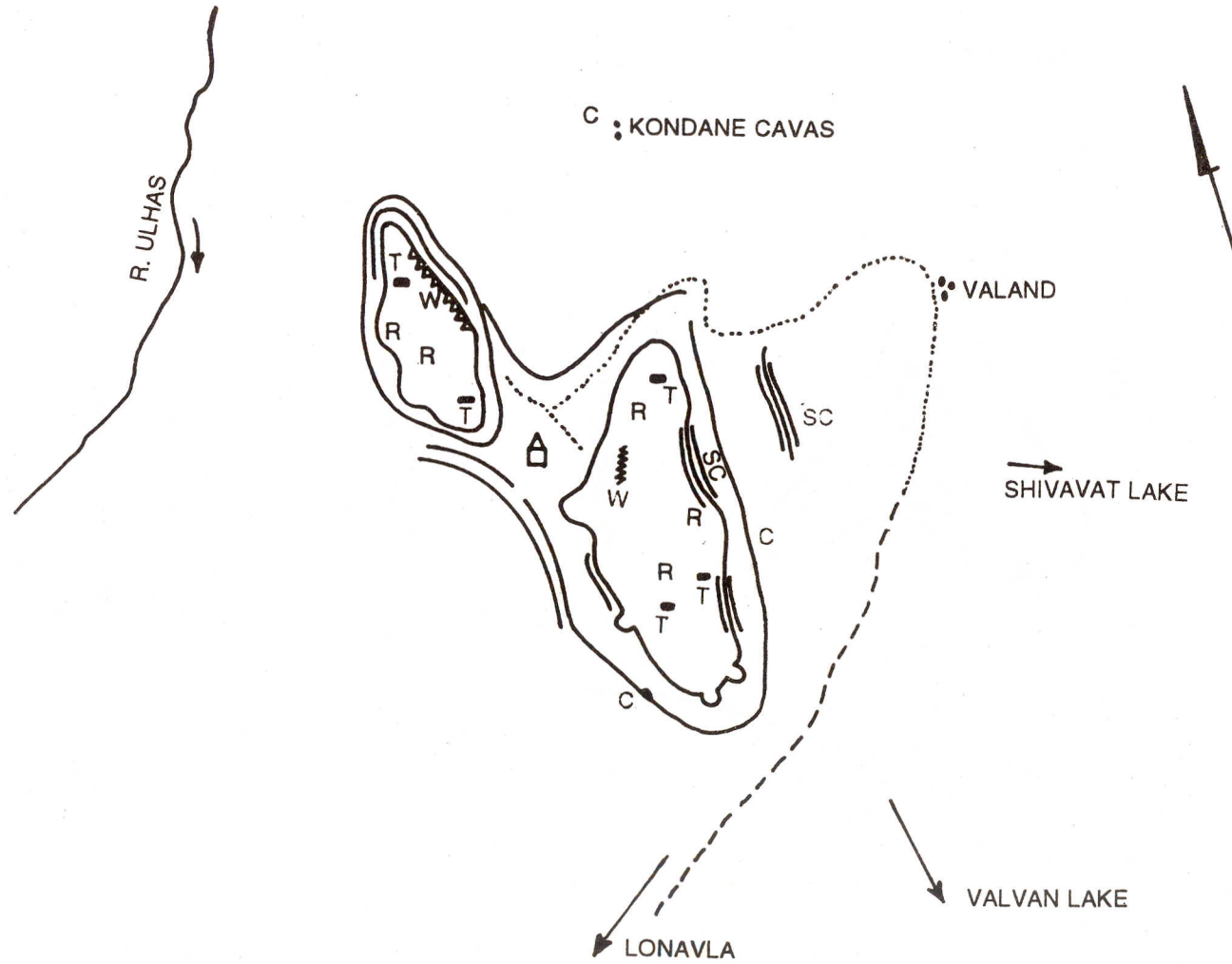


Fig. 45 : Forts Shrivardhan and Manaranjan (-Rajmachi-)

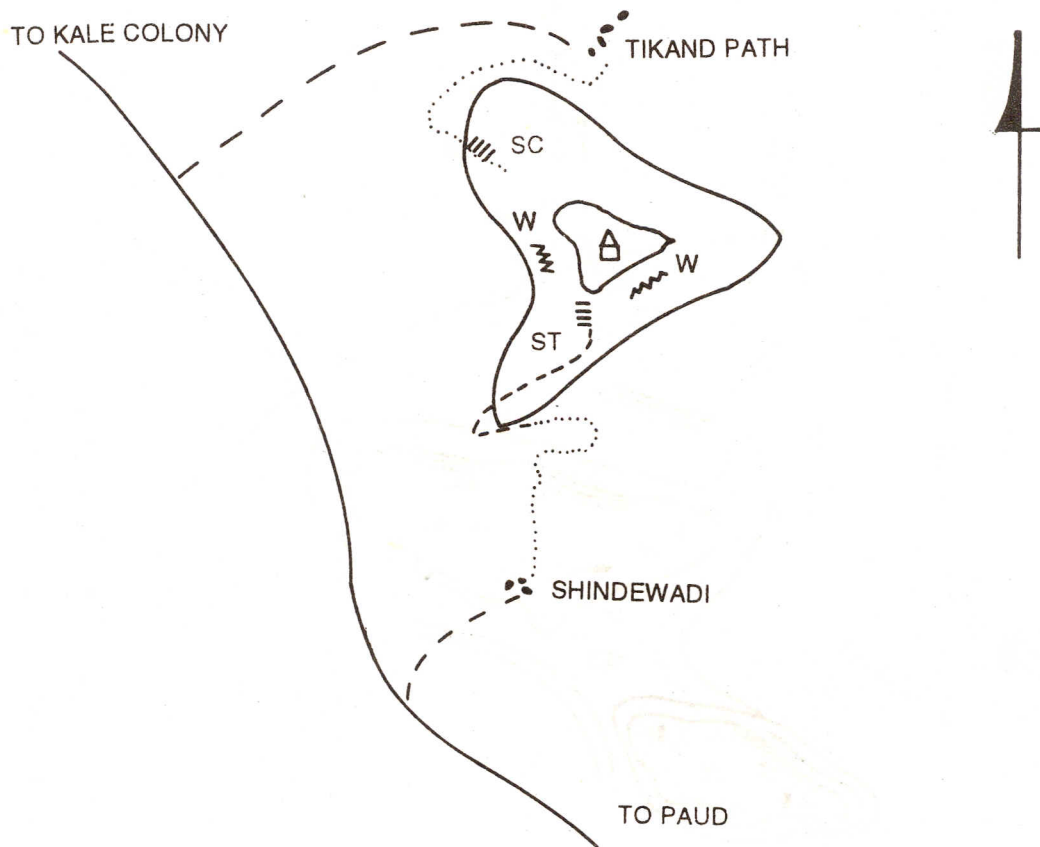


Fig. 46 : Fort Tikona

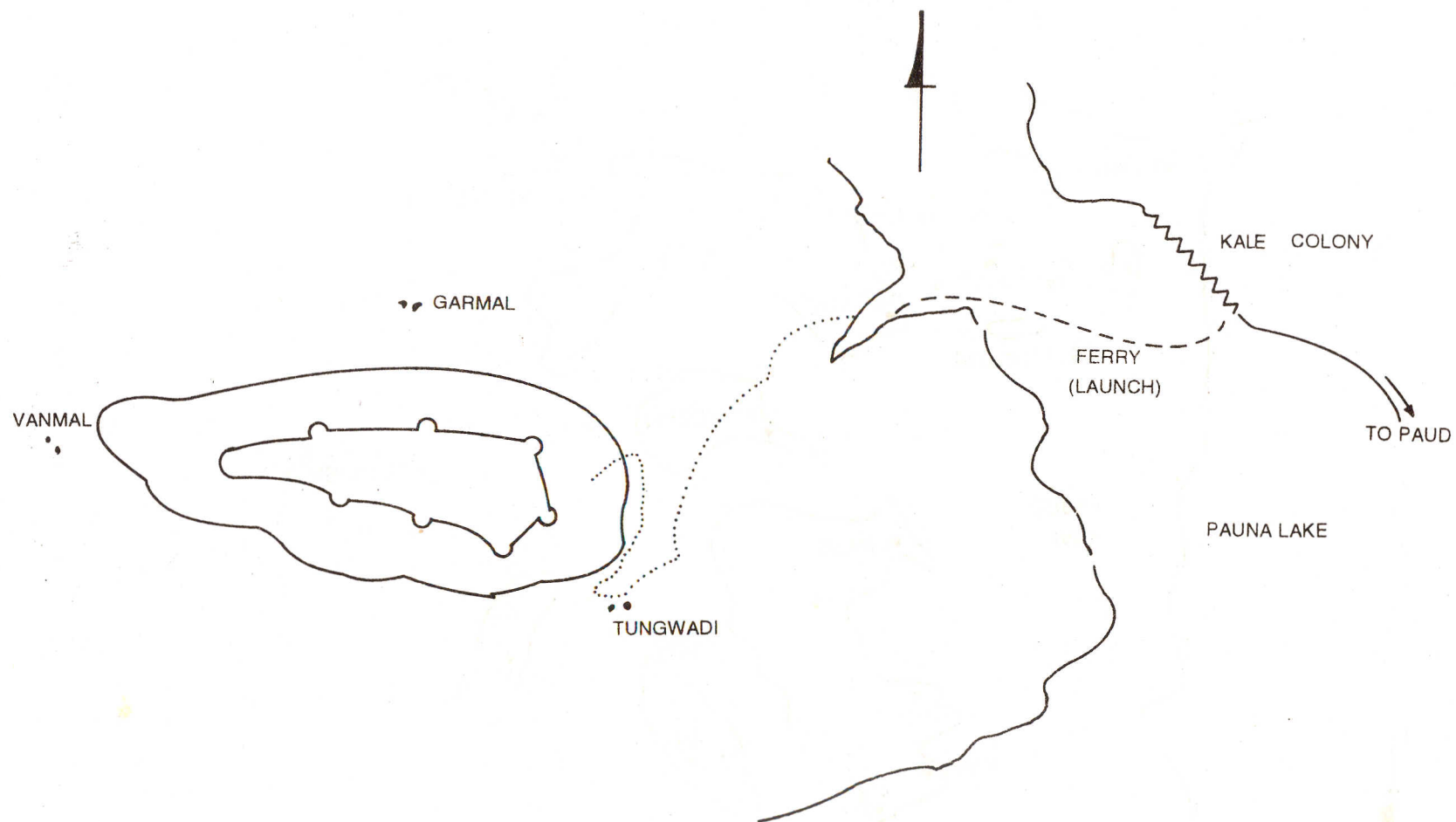
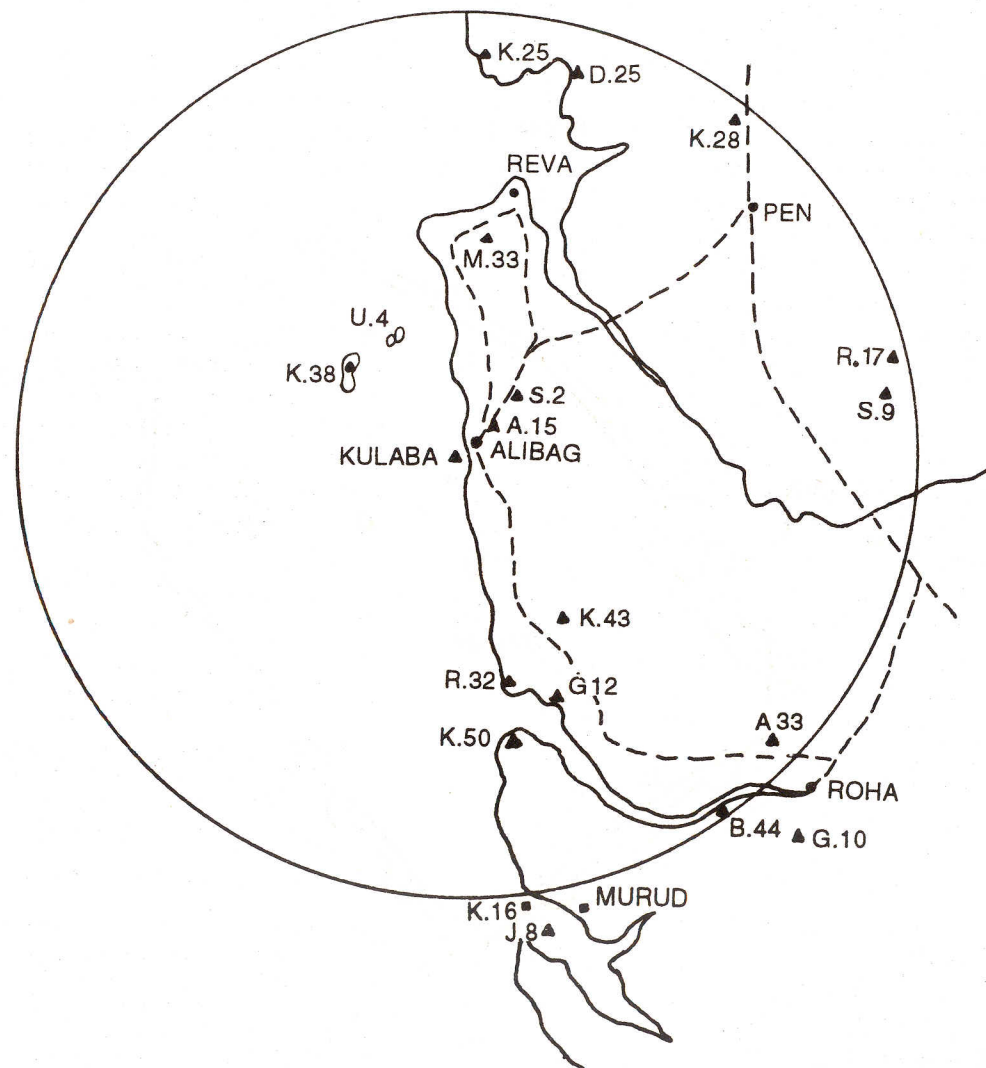


Fig. 47 : Fort Tung



Fig. 48 : The Bombay Cluster, Total Forts 8



Figures



Fig. 49 : The Kulaba Cluster Total Forts 20

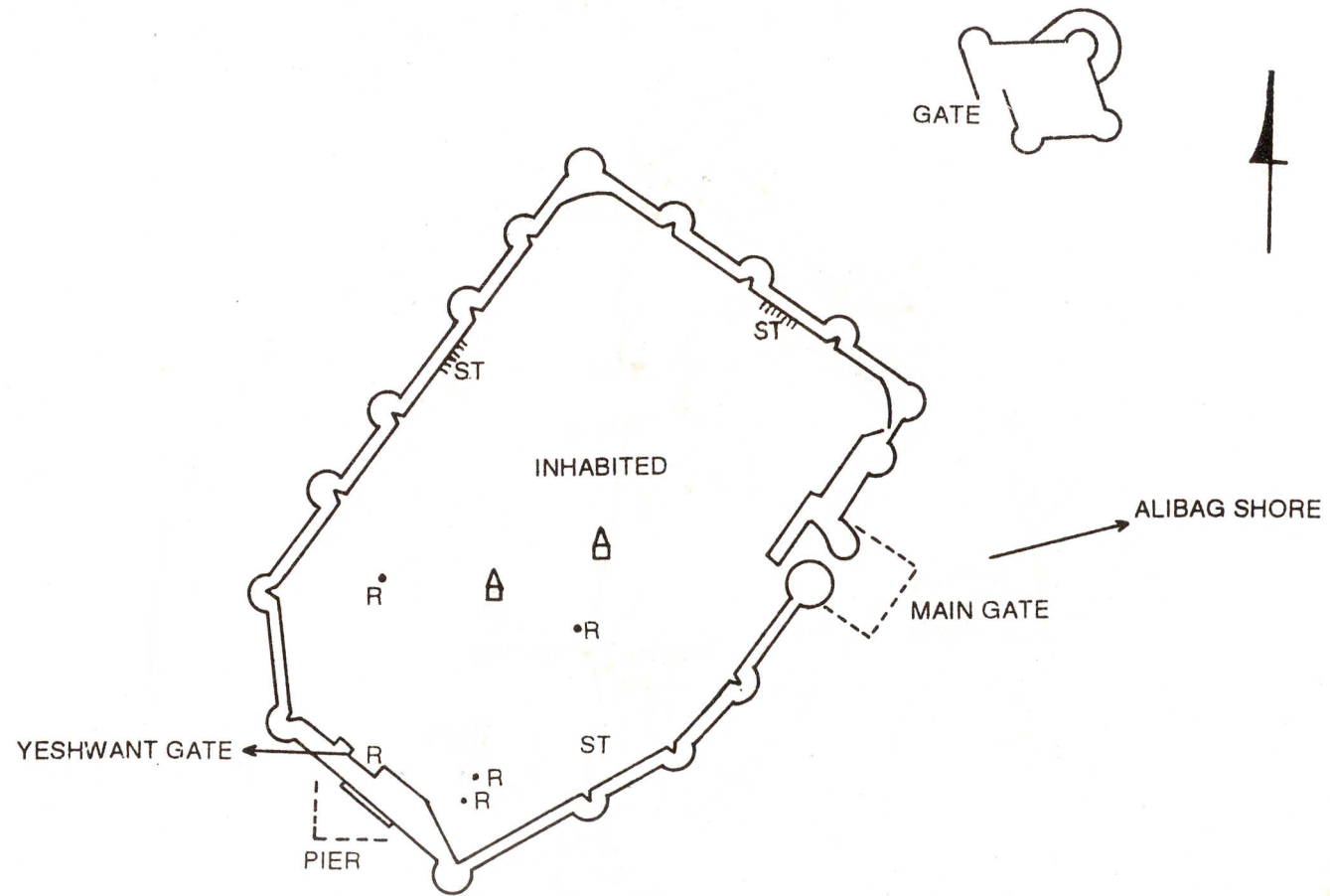


Fig. 50 : Fort Kulaba

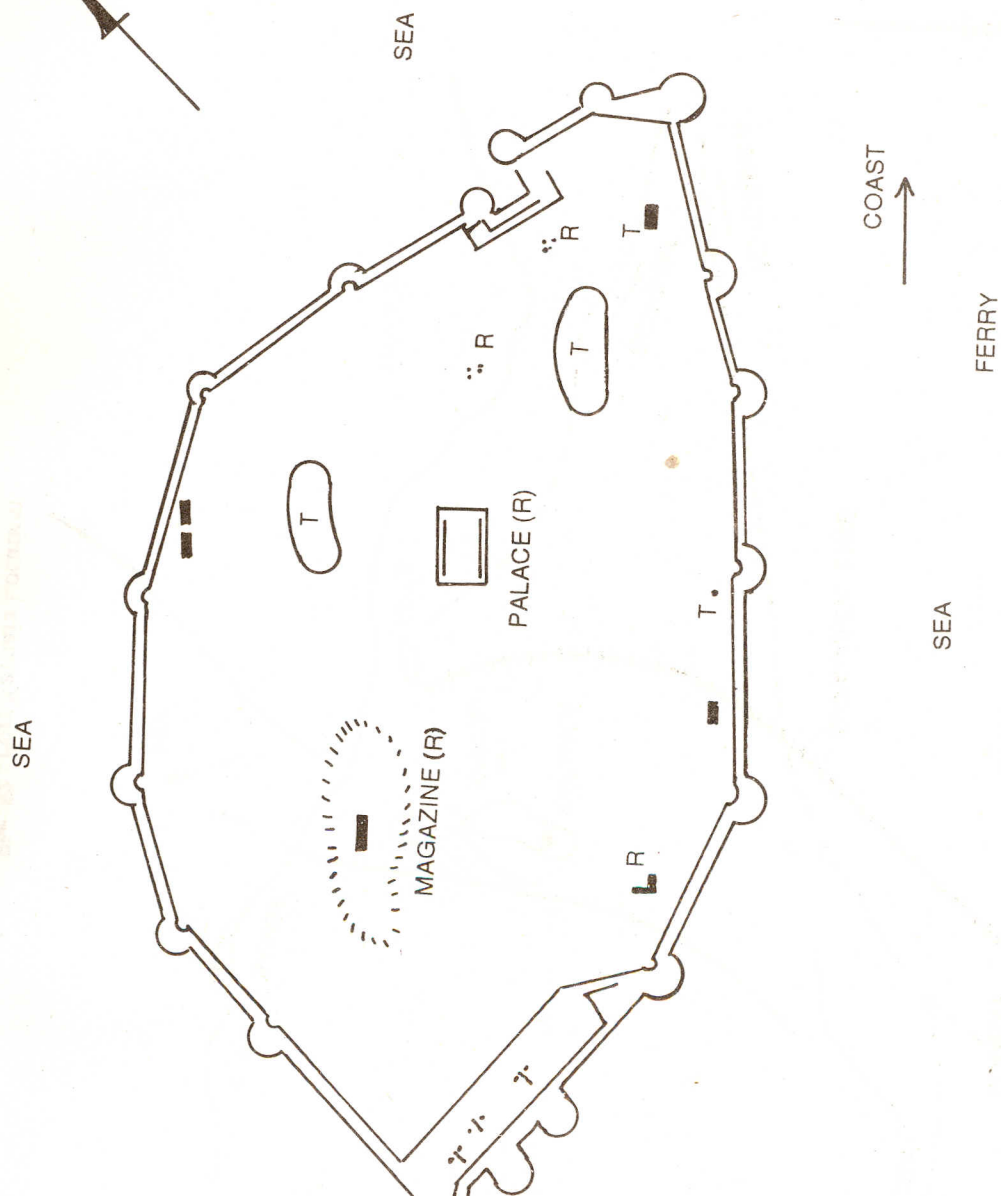


Fig. 51: Janjira

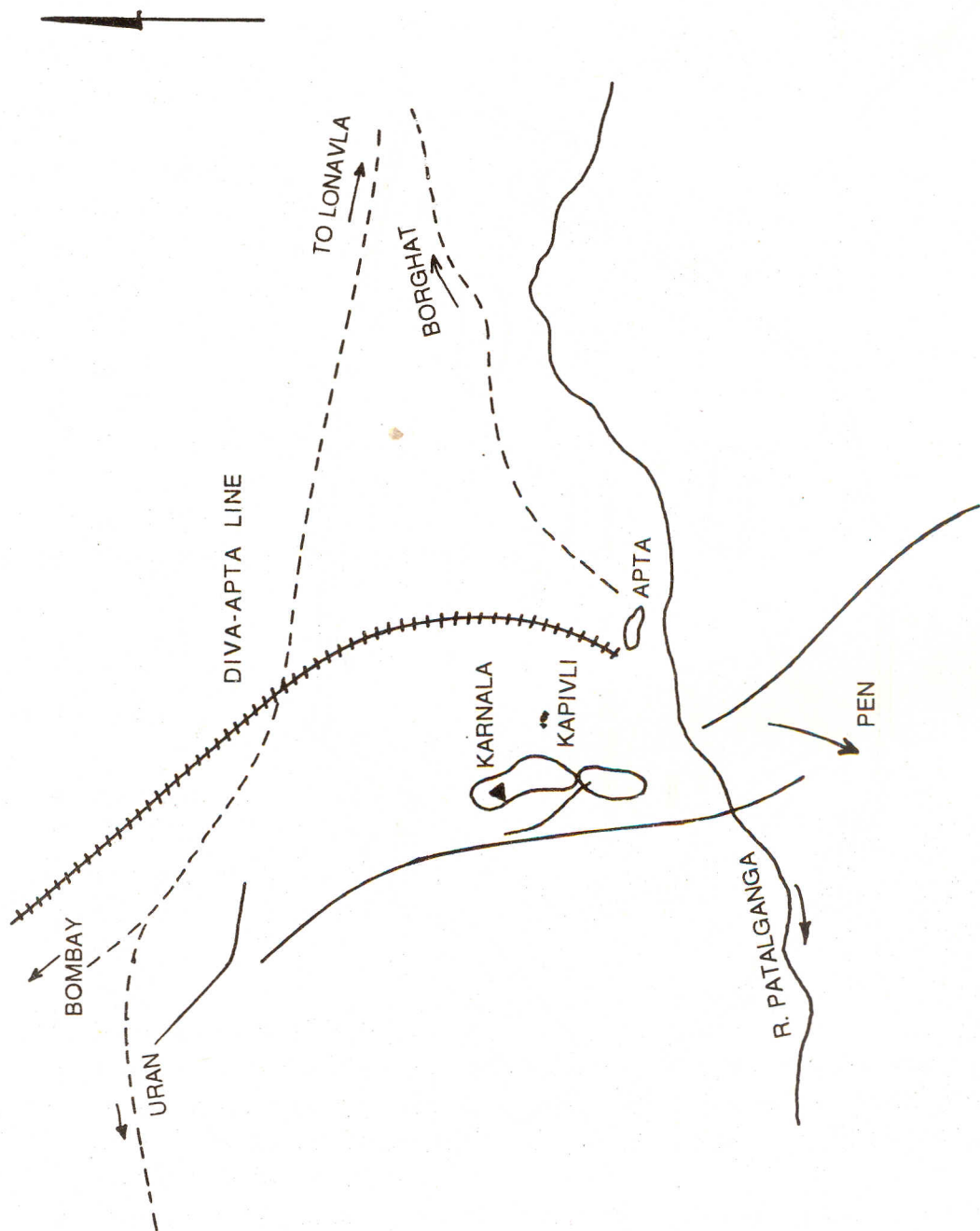


Fig. 52 : Fort Karnala Location

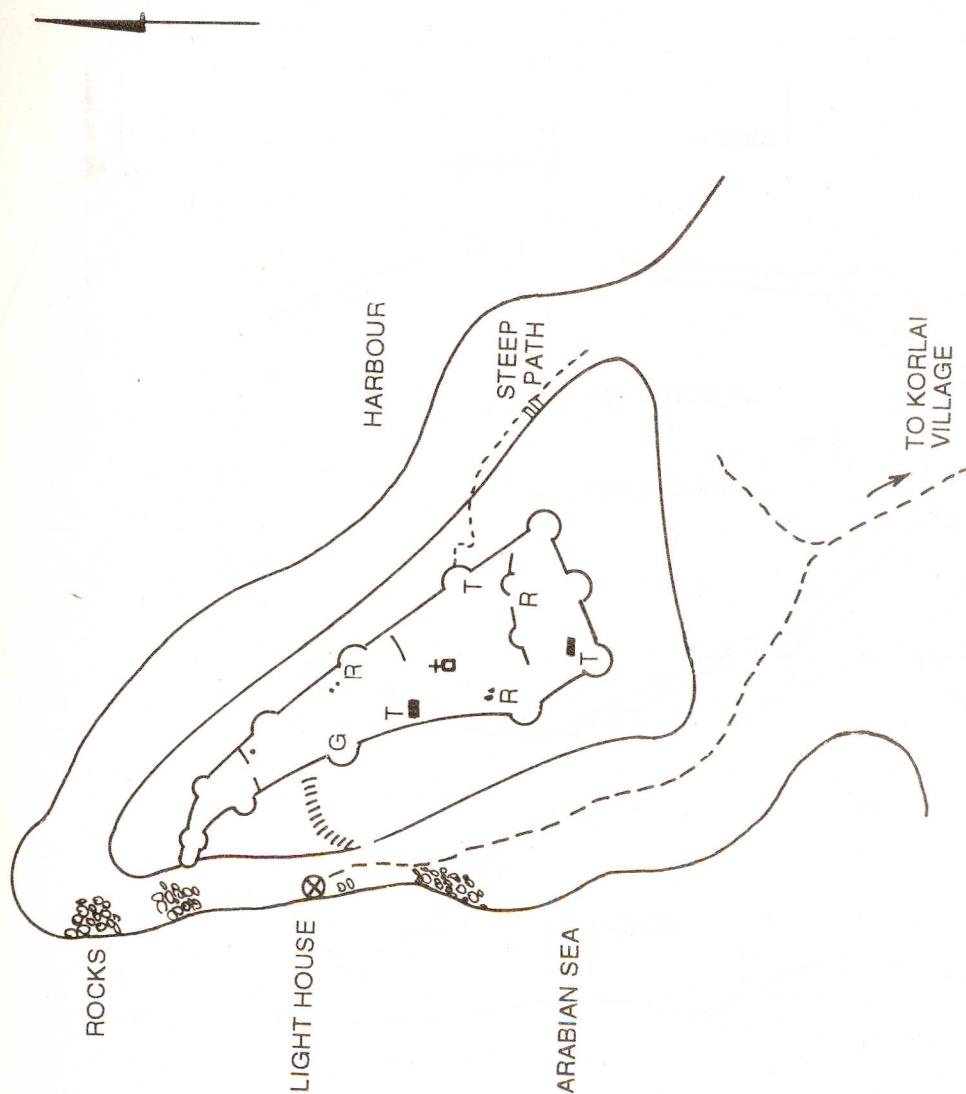


Fig. 53 : Fort Korlai

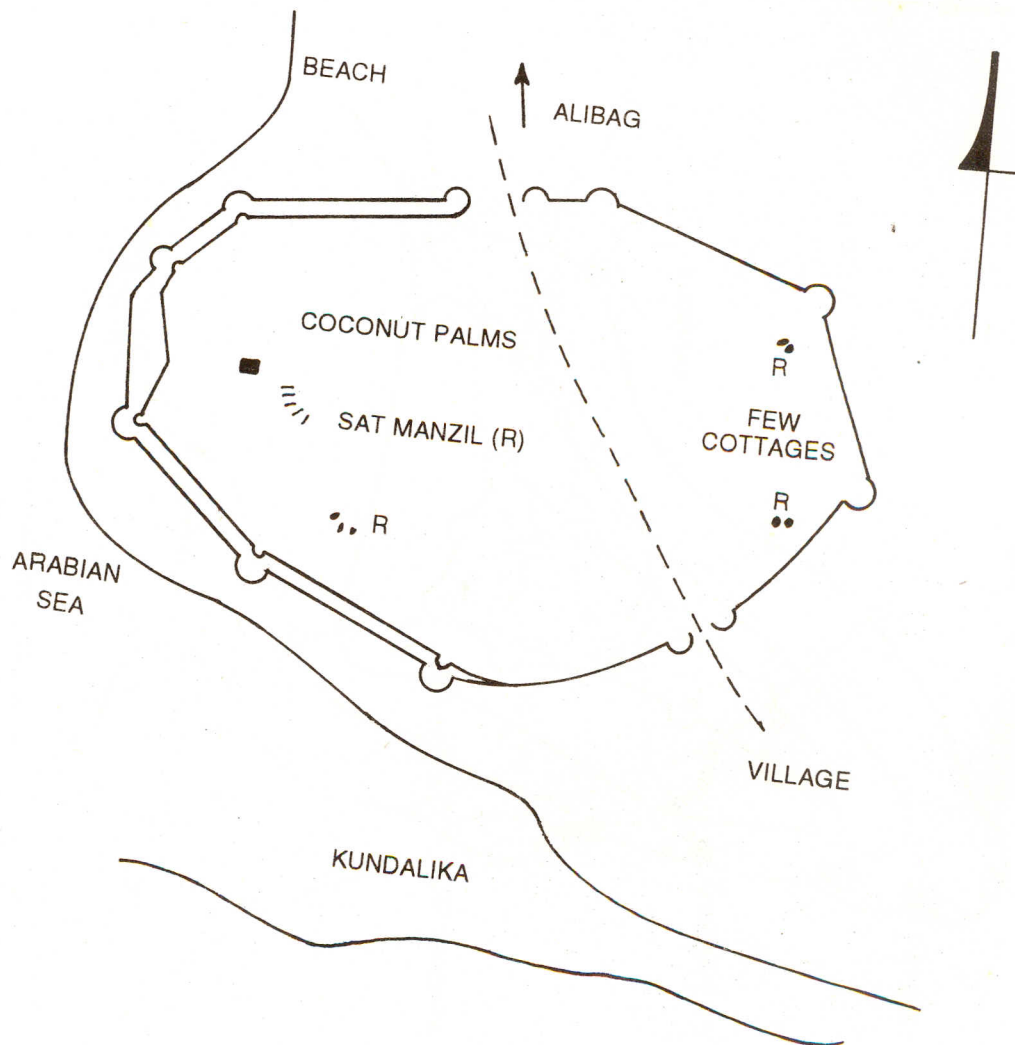


Fig. 54 : Fort Revdanda

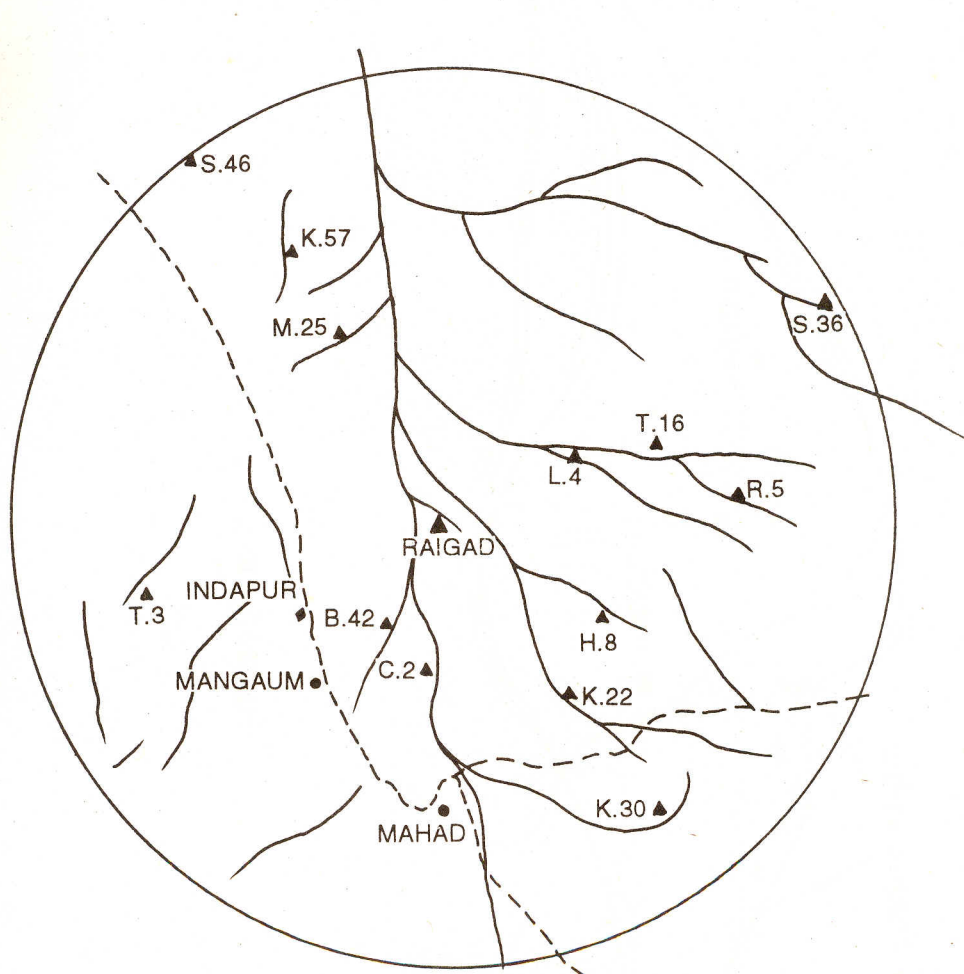


Fig. 55 : The Raigad Cluster Total Forts 14

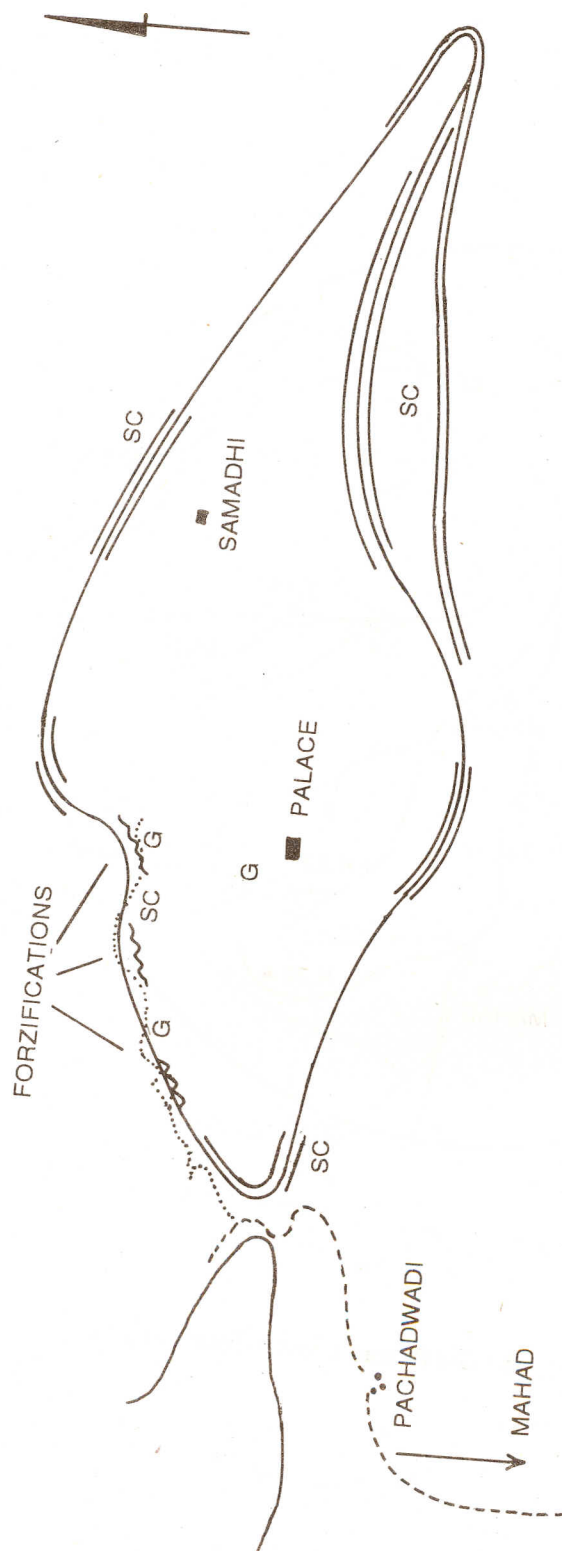


Fig. 56 : Fort Raigad

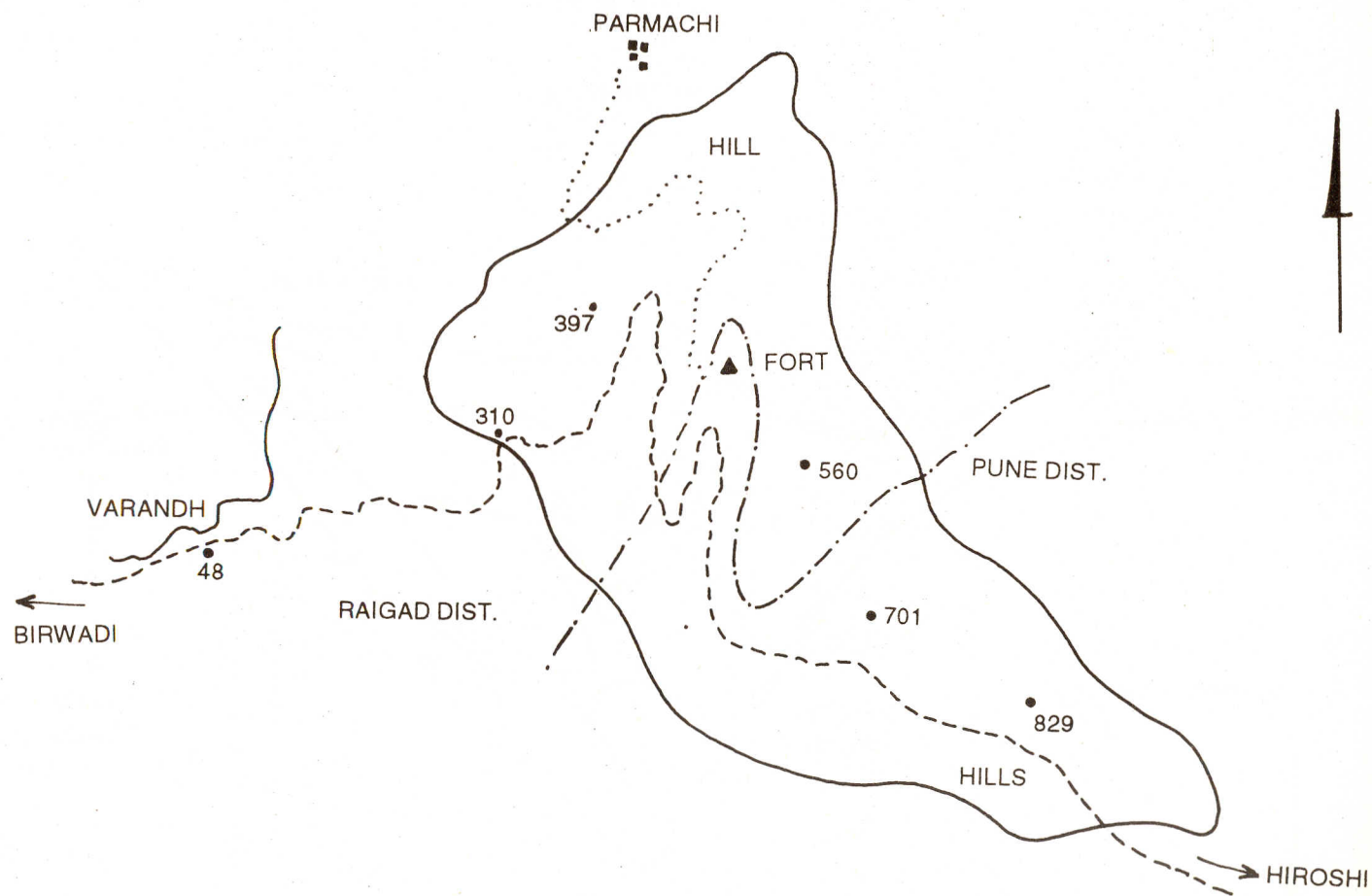


Fig. 57 : Kaula Killa Location

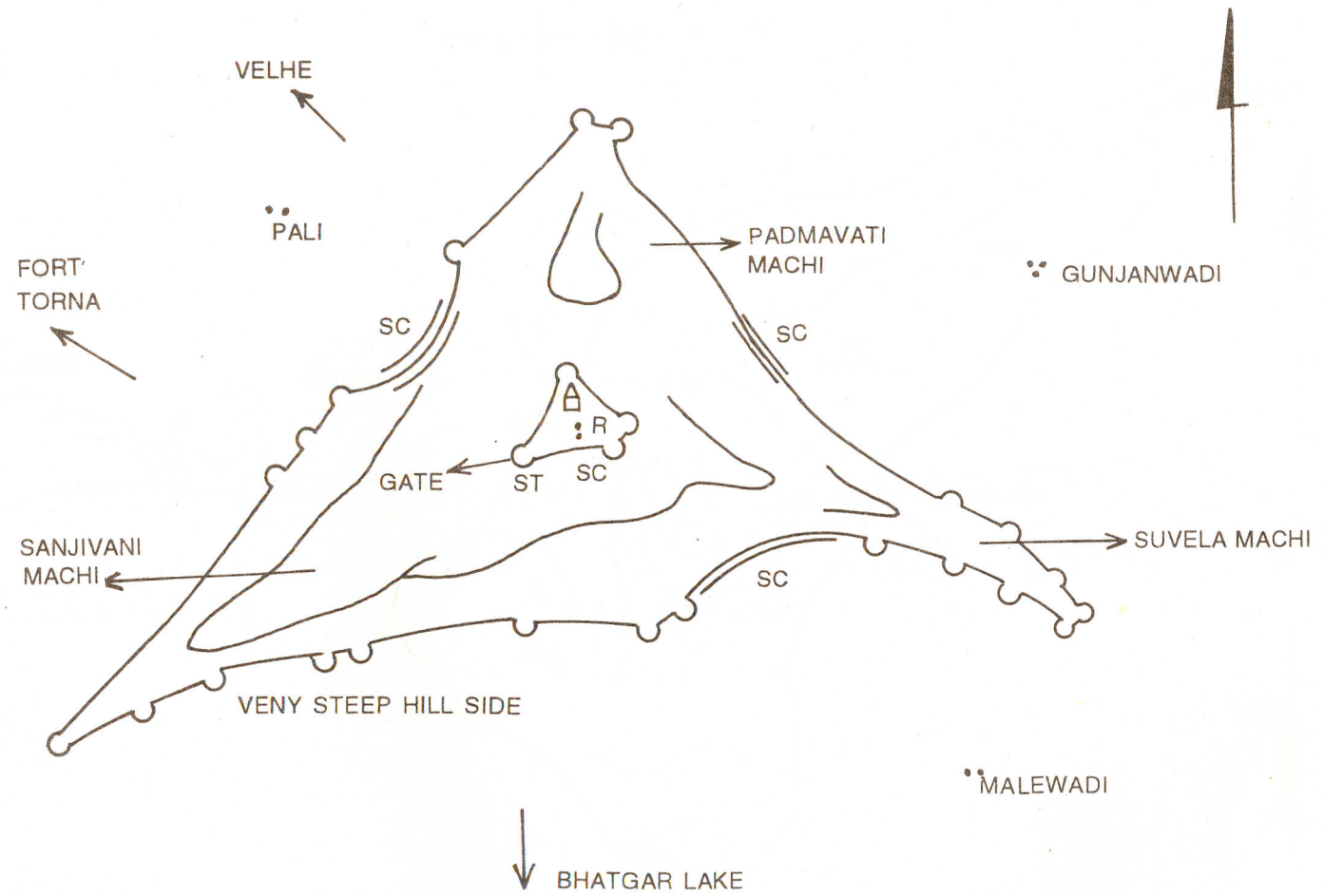


Fig. 58 : Fort Rajgad

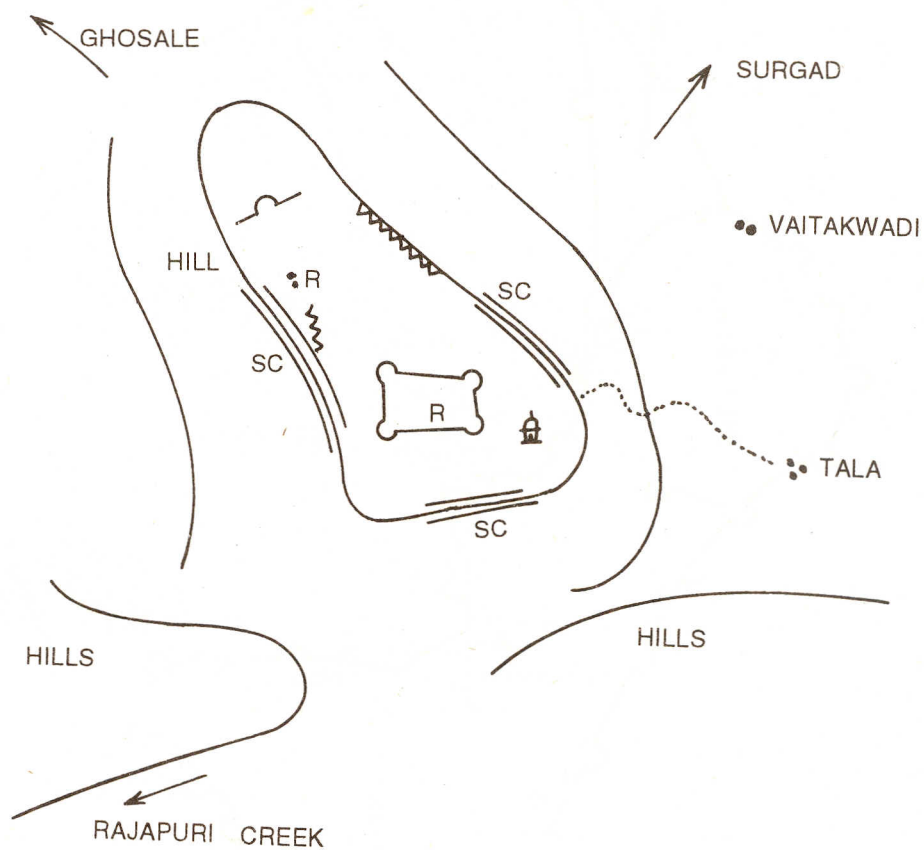


Fig. 59 : Fort Talegad

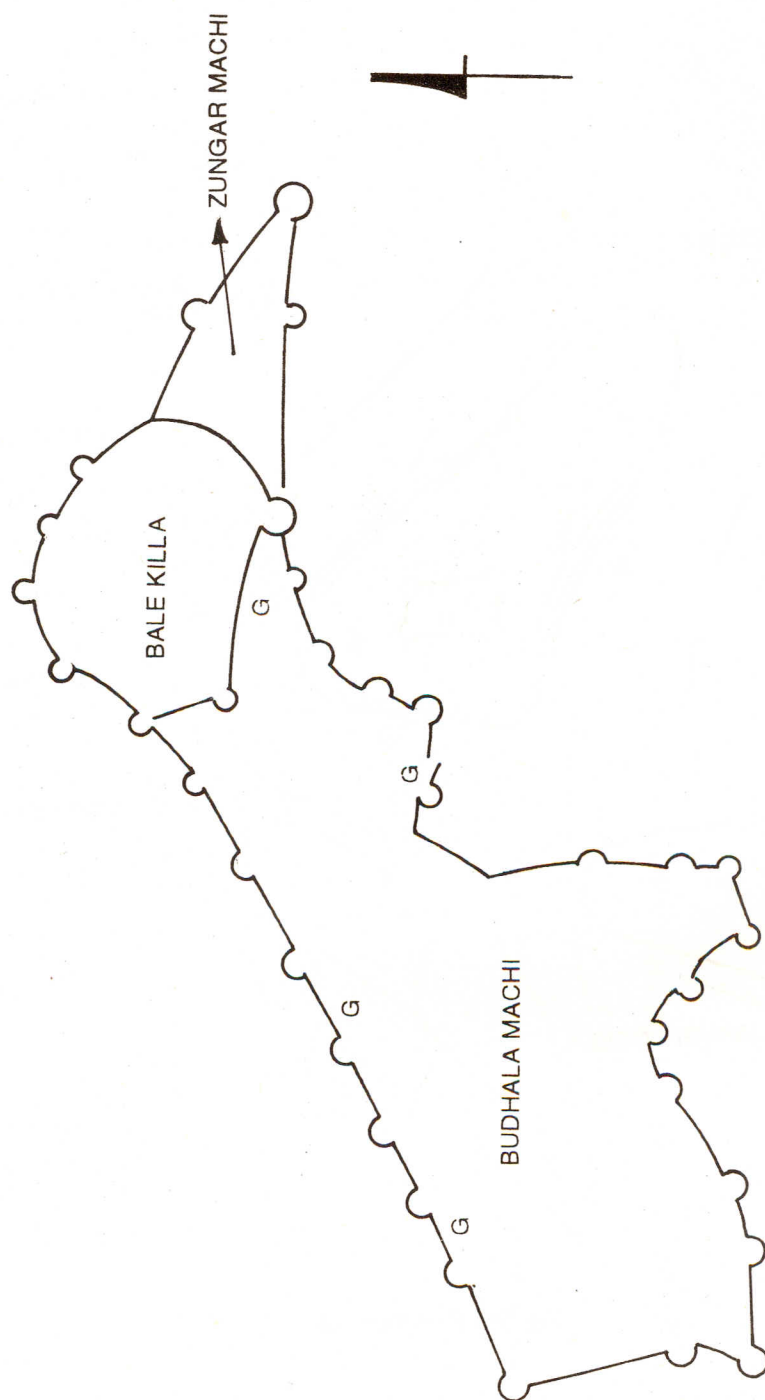


Fig. 60 : Fort Torna

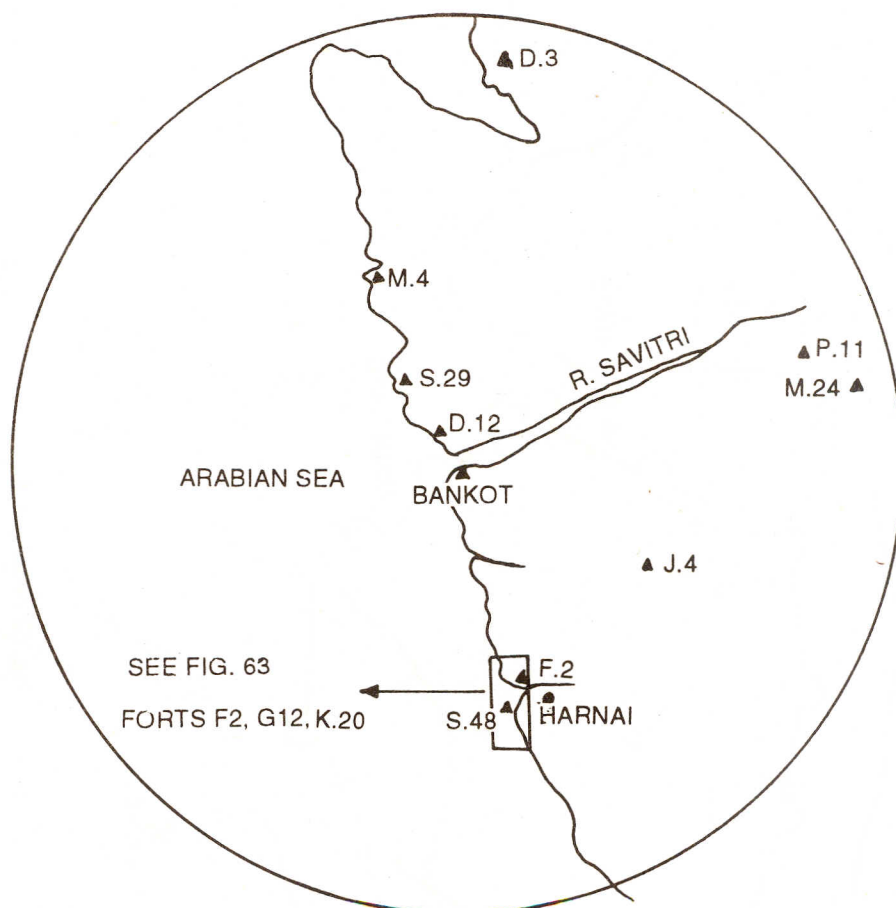


Fig. 61 : The Bankot Cluster Total Forts 12

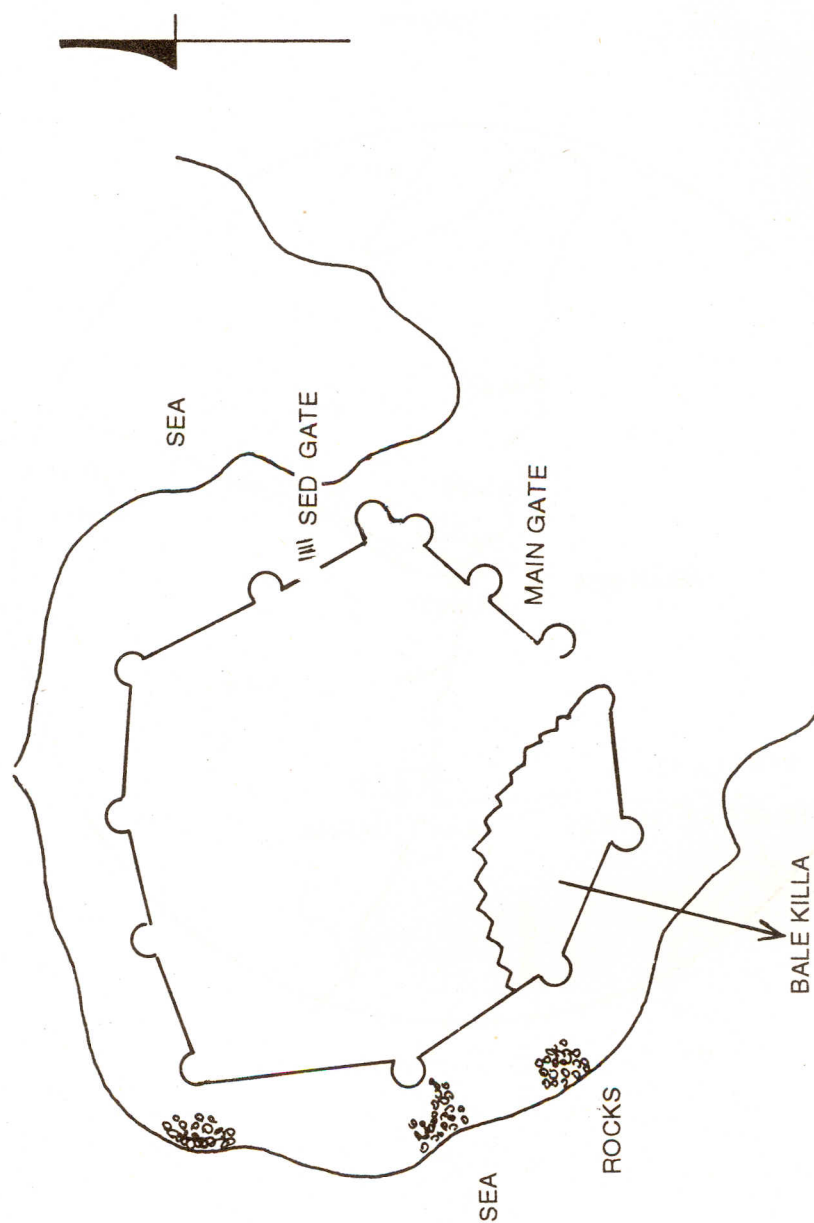


Fig. 62 : Fort Gova

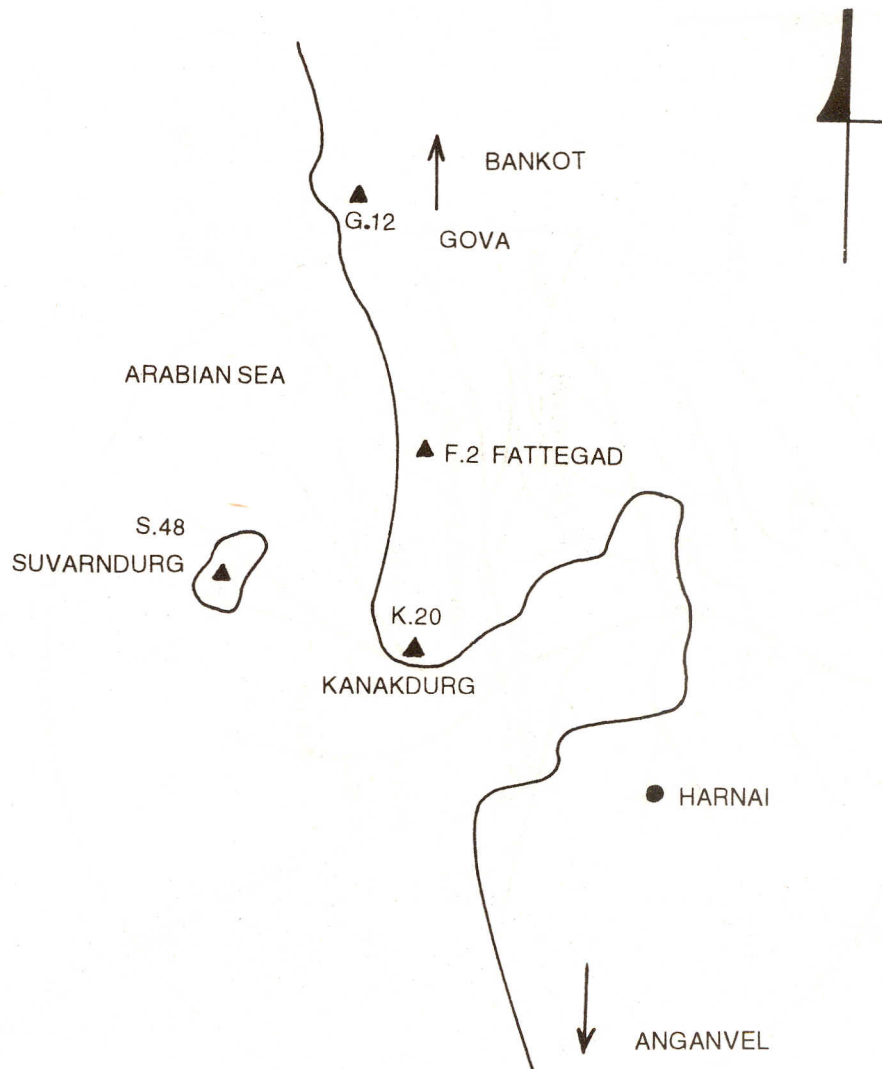


Fig. 63 : Harnari Group of Forts Bankot Cluster See Fig. 61

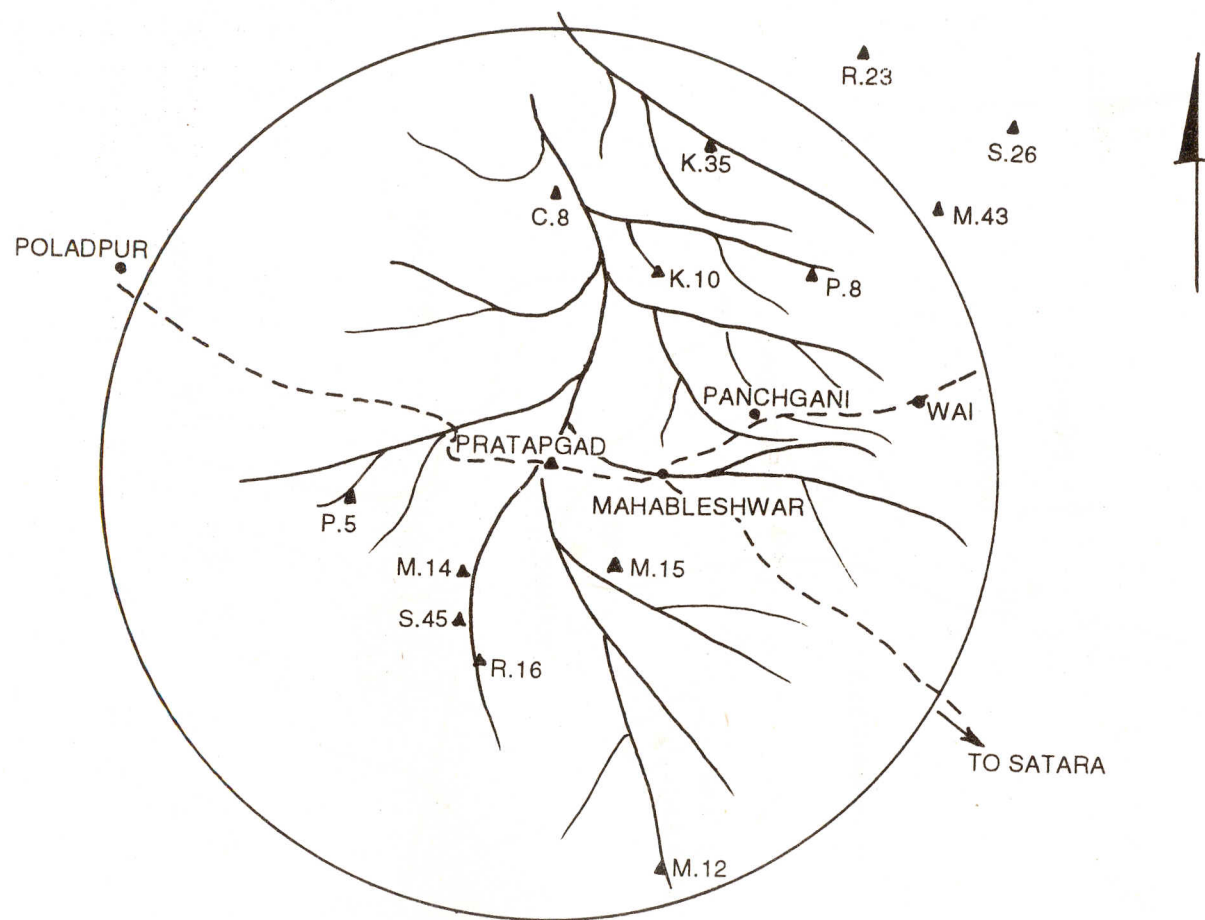


Fig. 64 : The Pratapgad Cluster, Total Forts 14

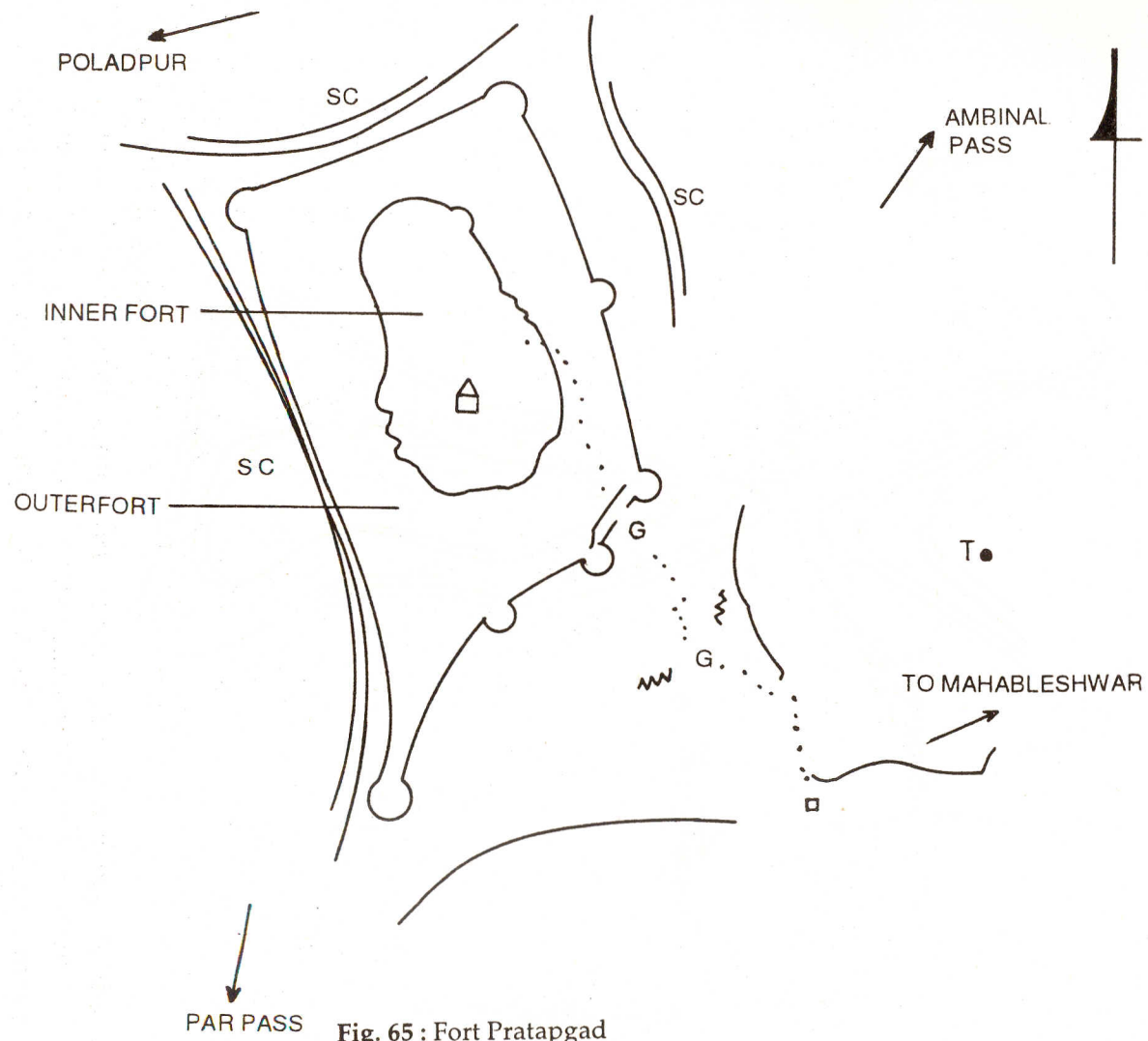


Fig. 65 : Fort Pratapgad

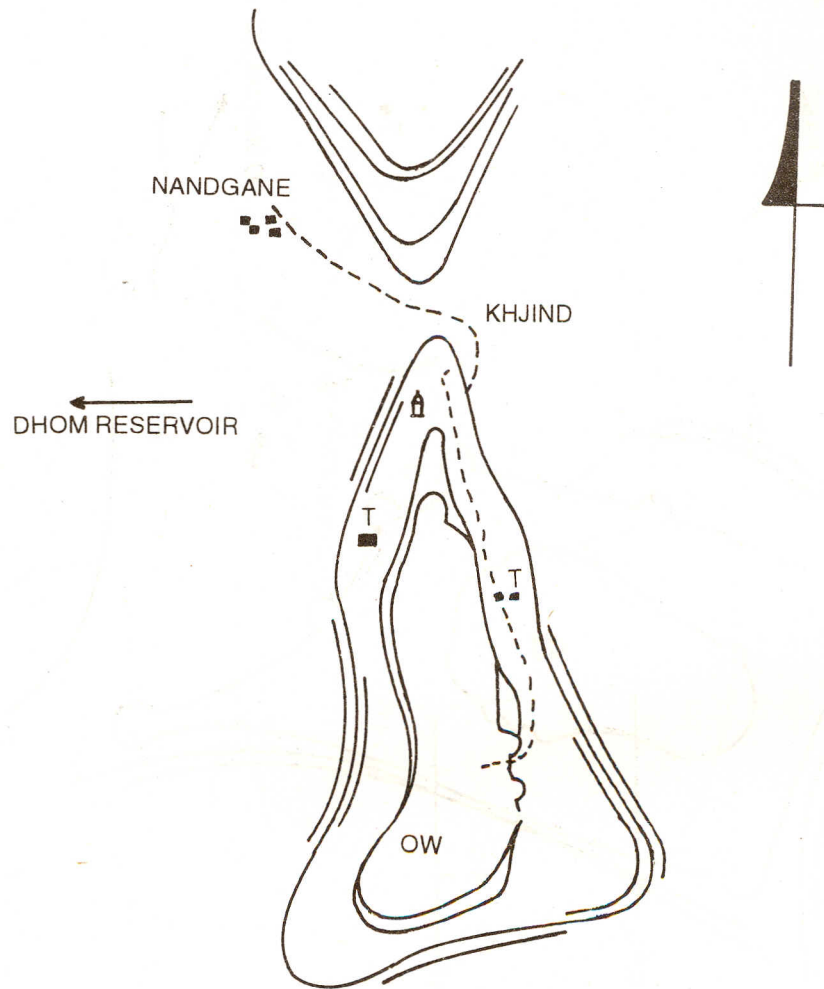


Fig. 66 : Fort Kamalgad

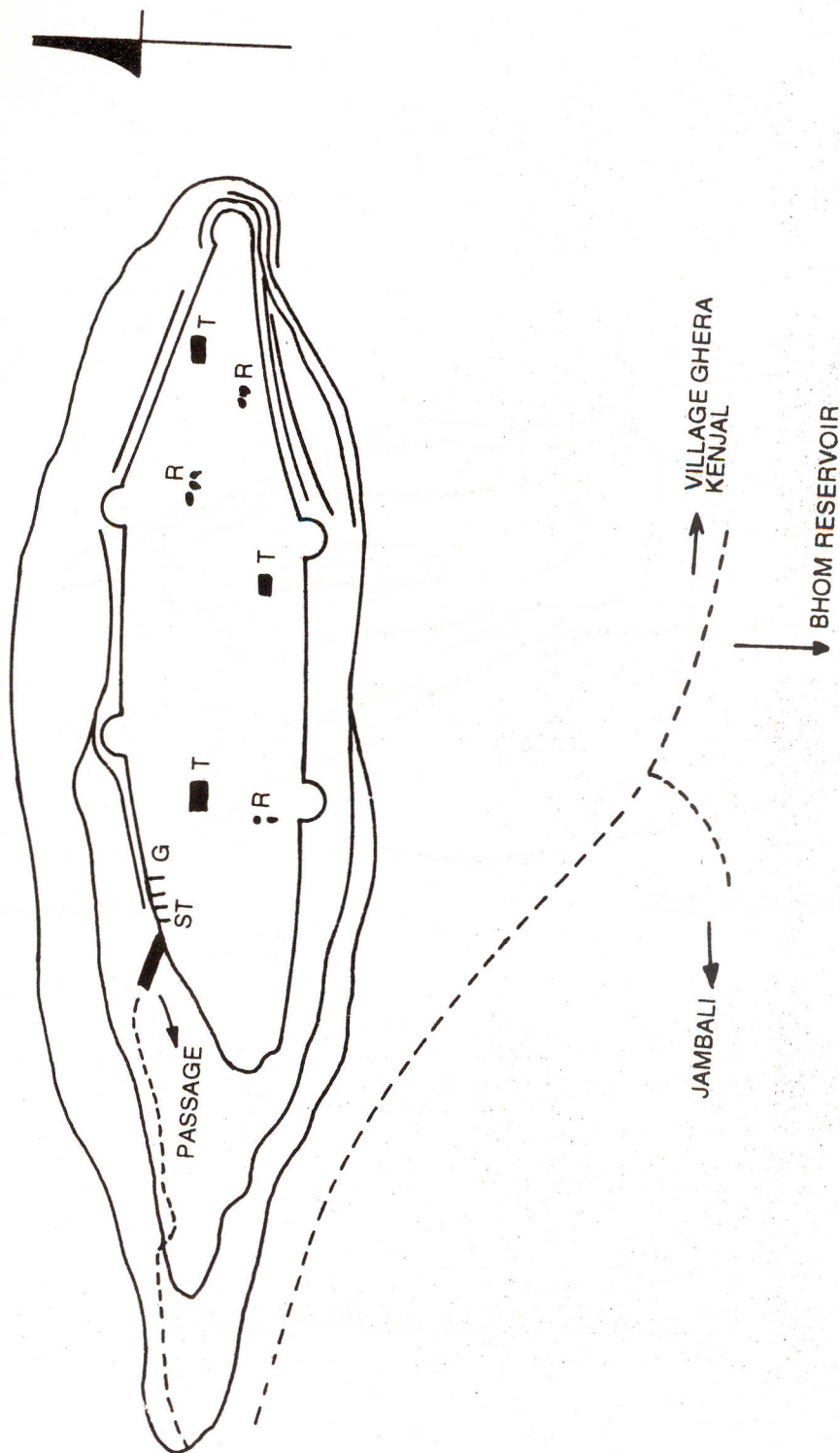


Fig. 67 : Fort Kenjalgad

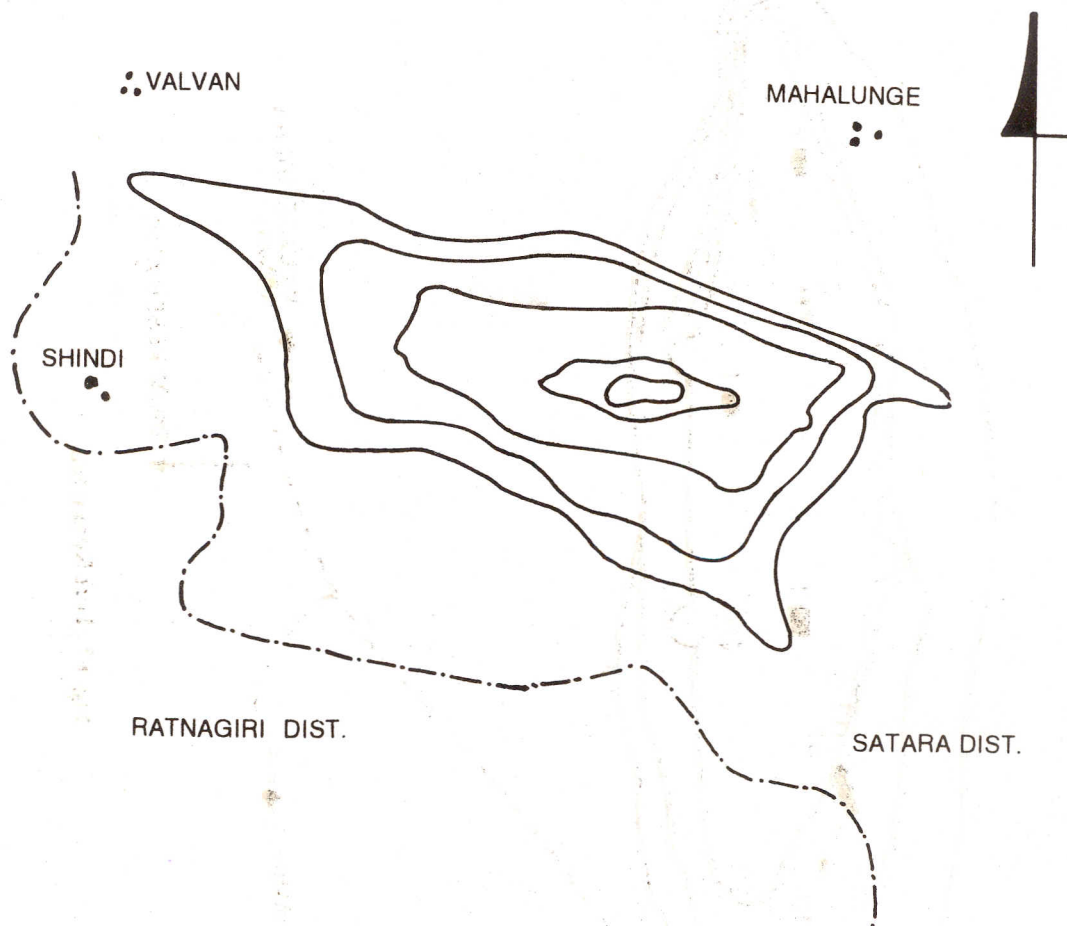


Fig. 68 : Fort Mahimangad (Mahimandangad)

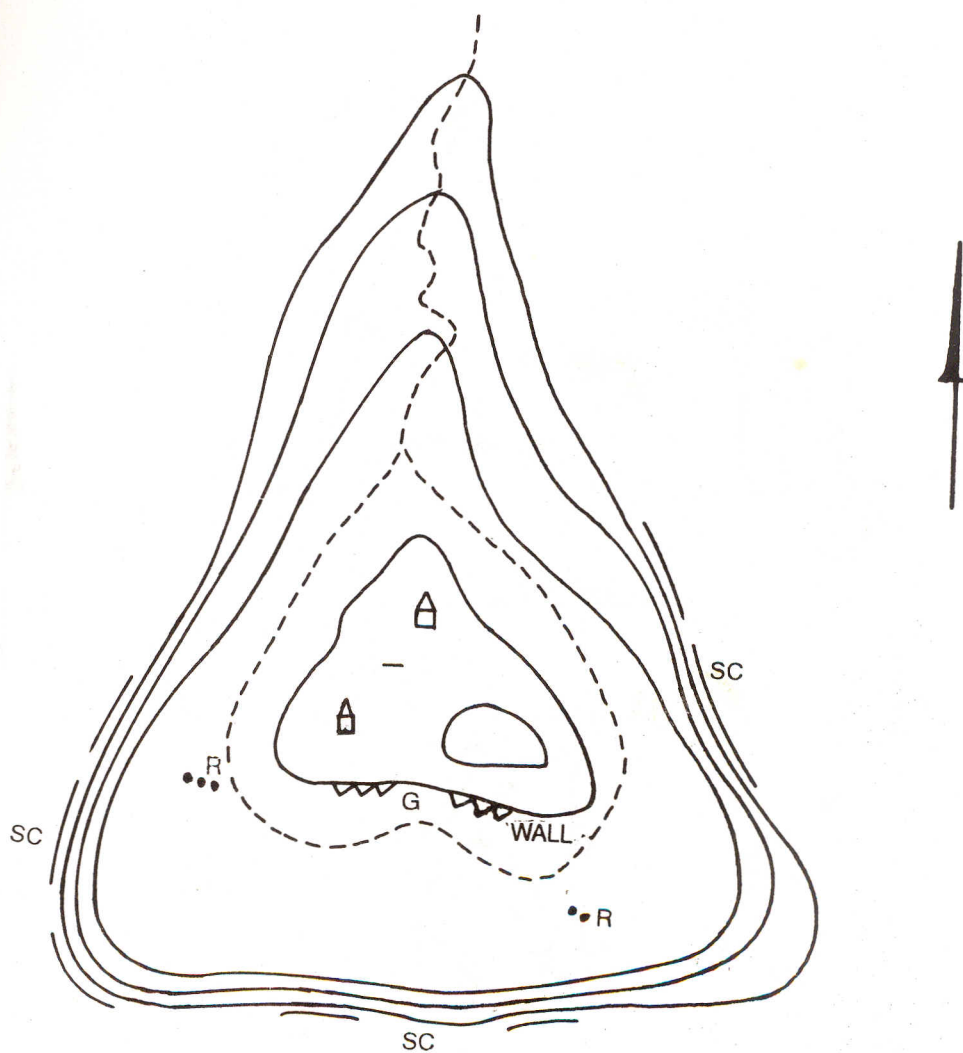


Fig. 69 : Fort Pandavgad

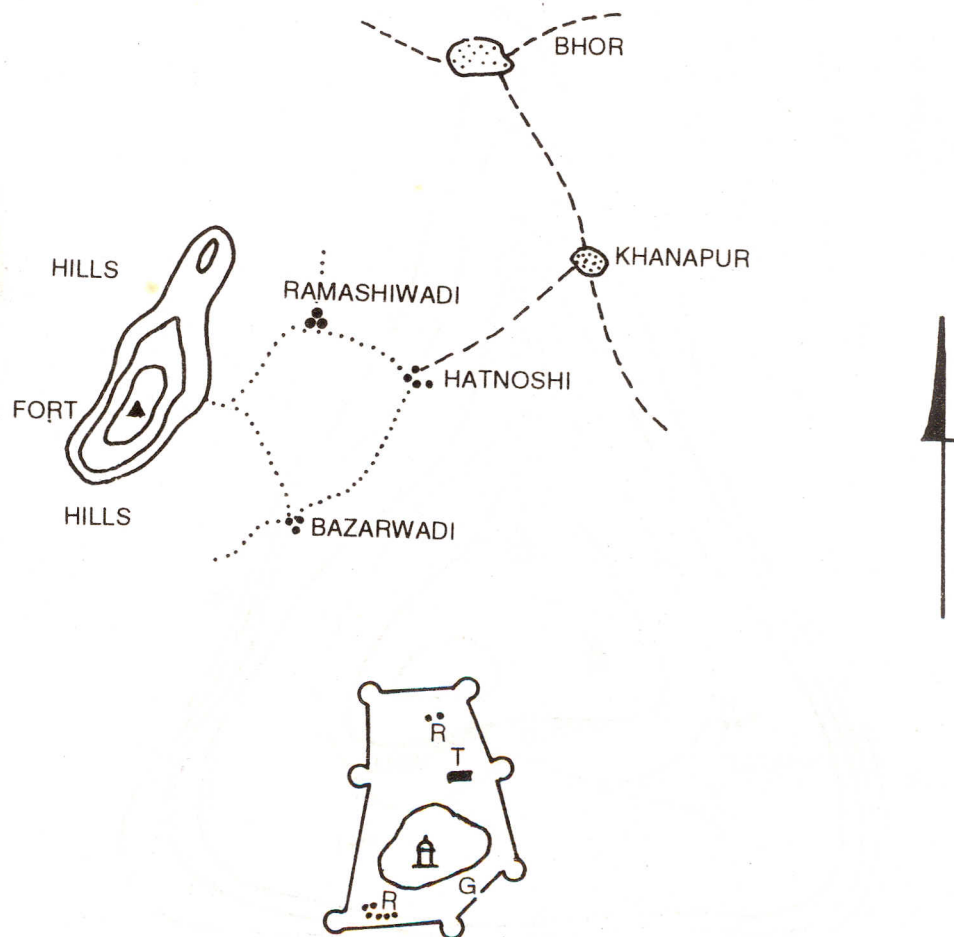


Fig. 70 : Fort Rohida

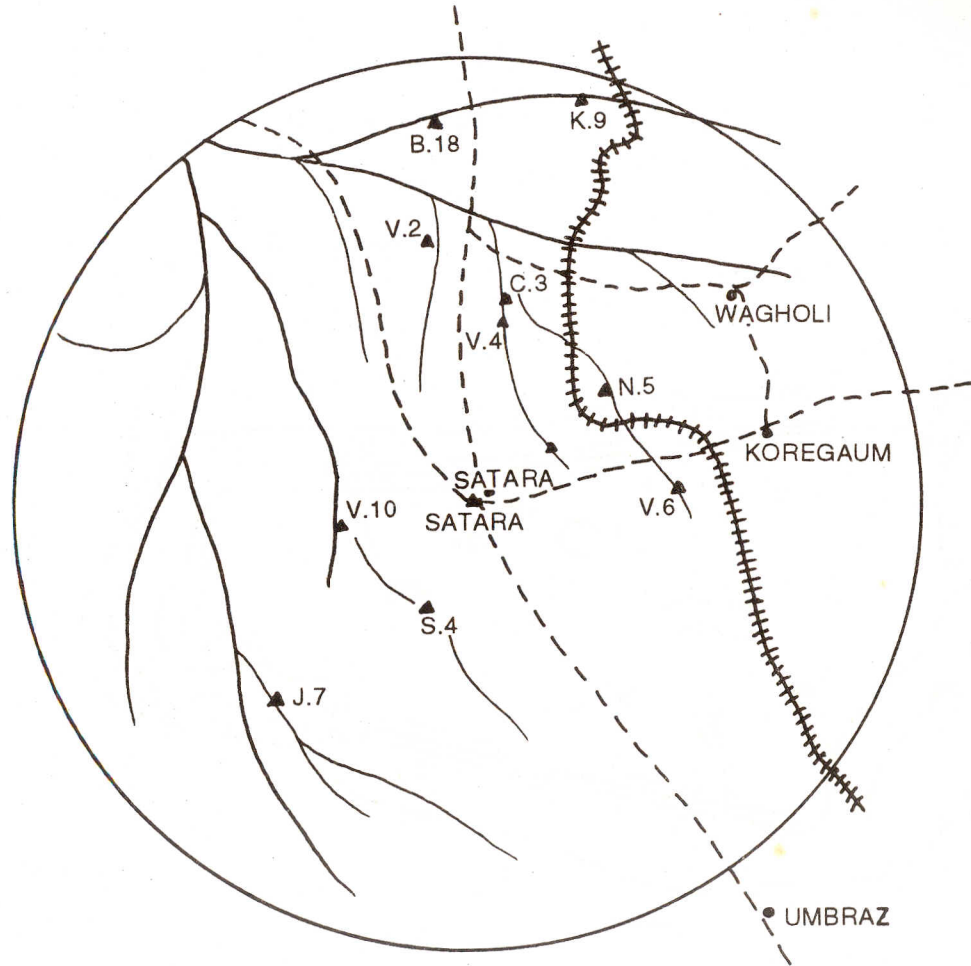


Fig. 71 : The Satara Cluster Total Forts 11

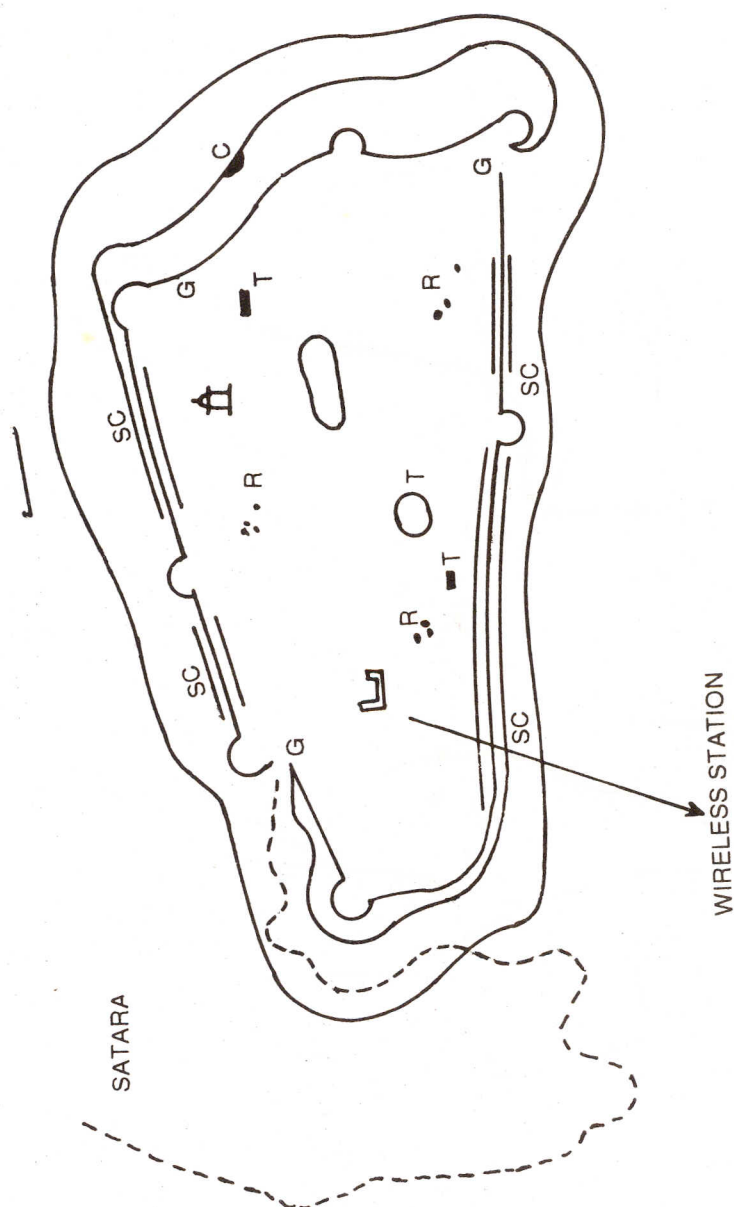


Fig. 72 : Fort Satara

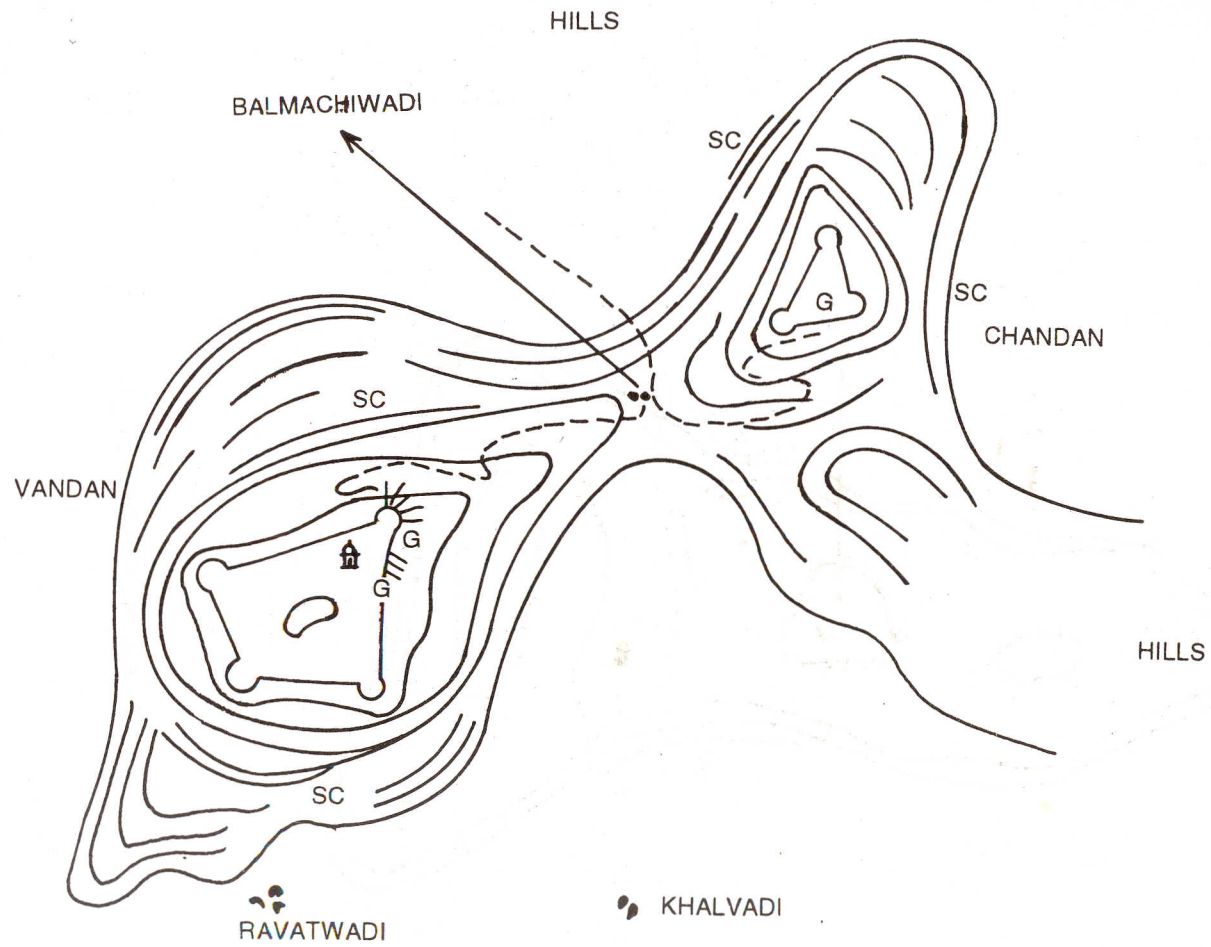


Fig. 73 : Forts Chandan and Vandan

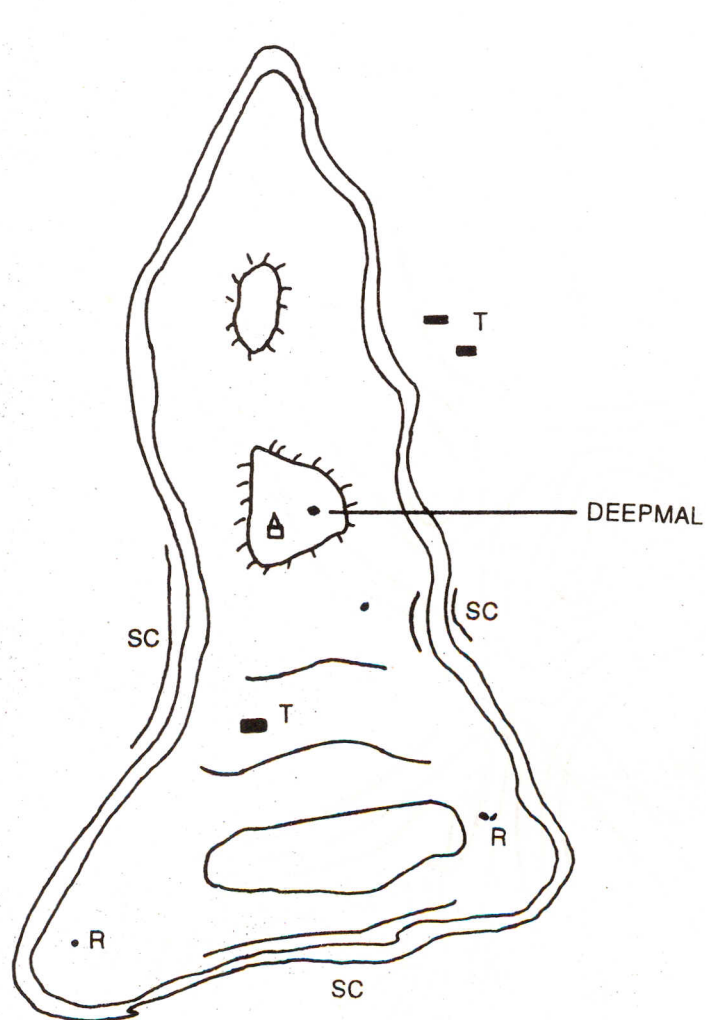


Fig. 74 : Fort Jangli Jaygad

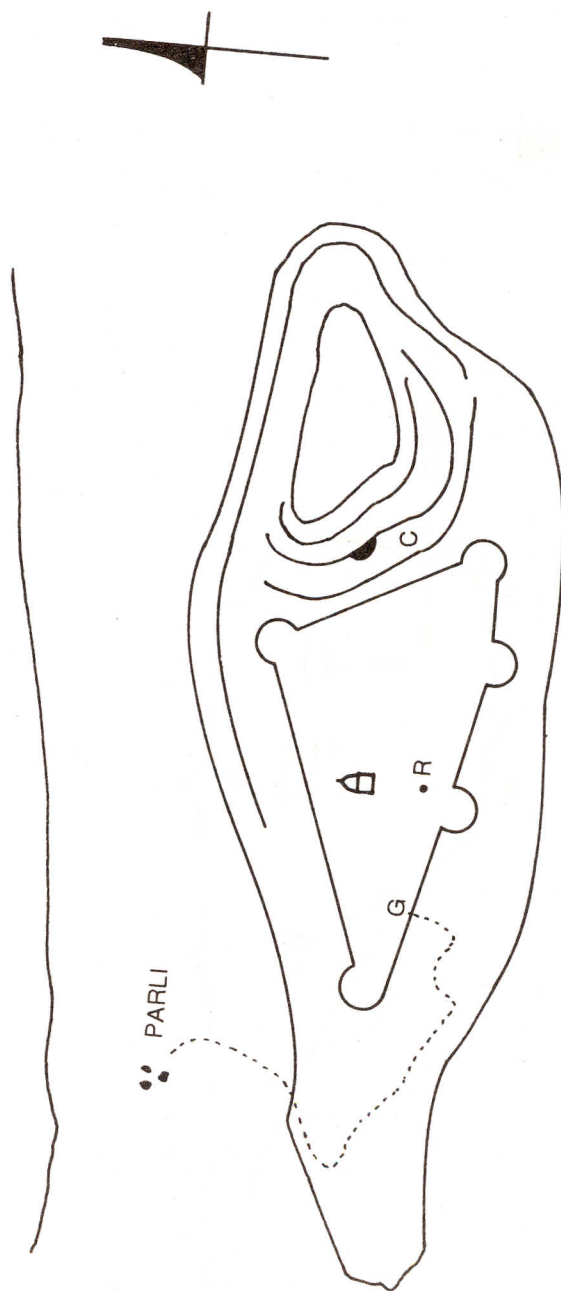


Fig. 75 : Fort Sajjangad

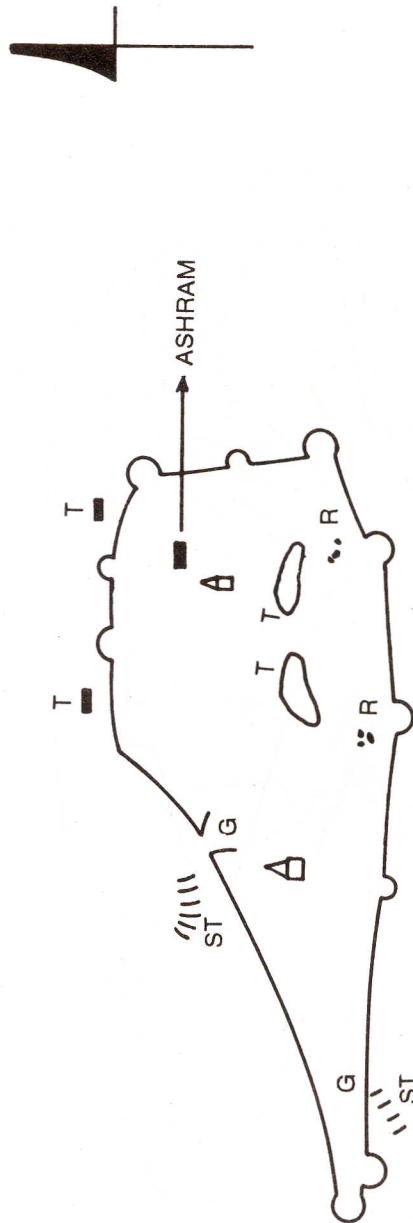
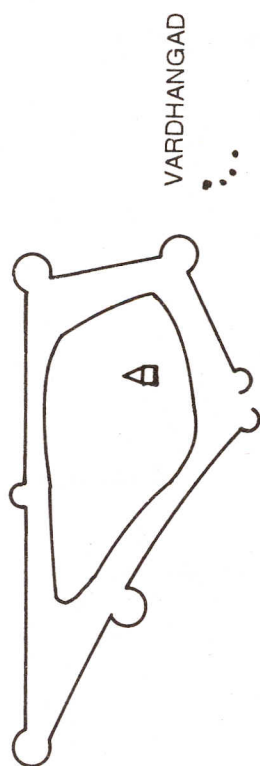


Fig. 76 : Fort Vairatgad



FORT BUILT ON SMALL ISOLATED HILL

Fig. 77 : Fort Vardhangad

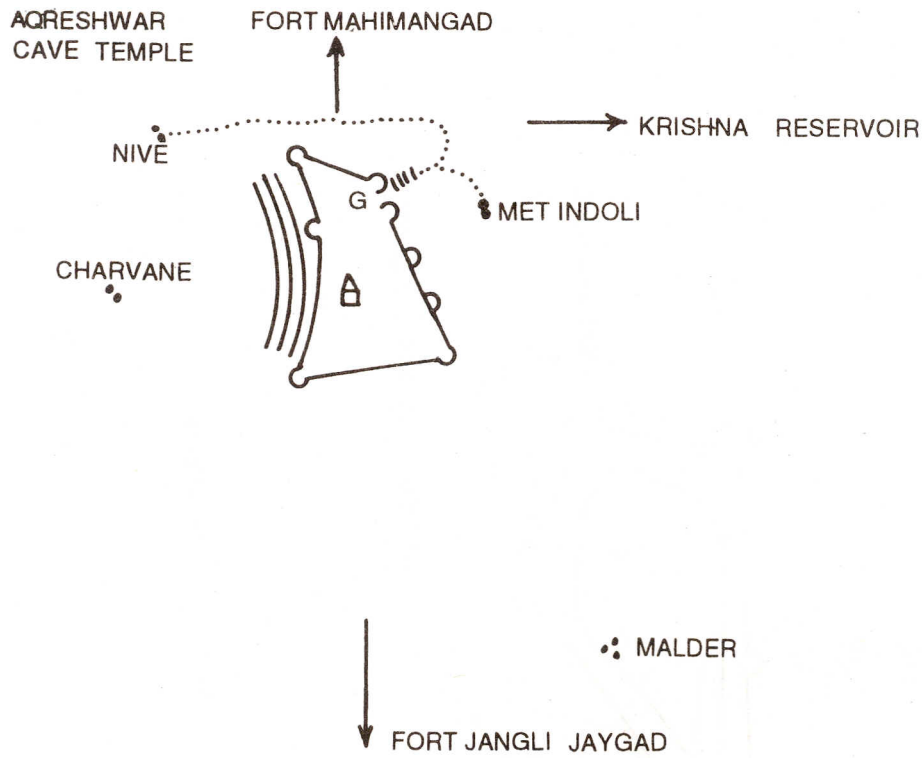


Fig. 78 : Fort Vasota

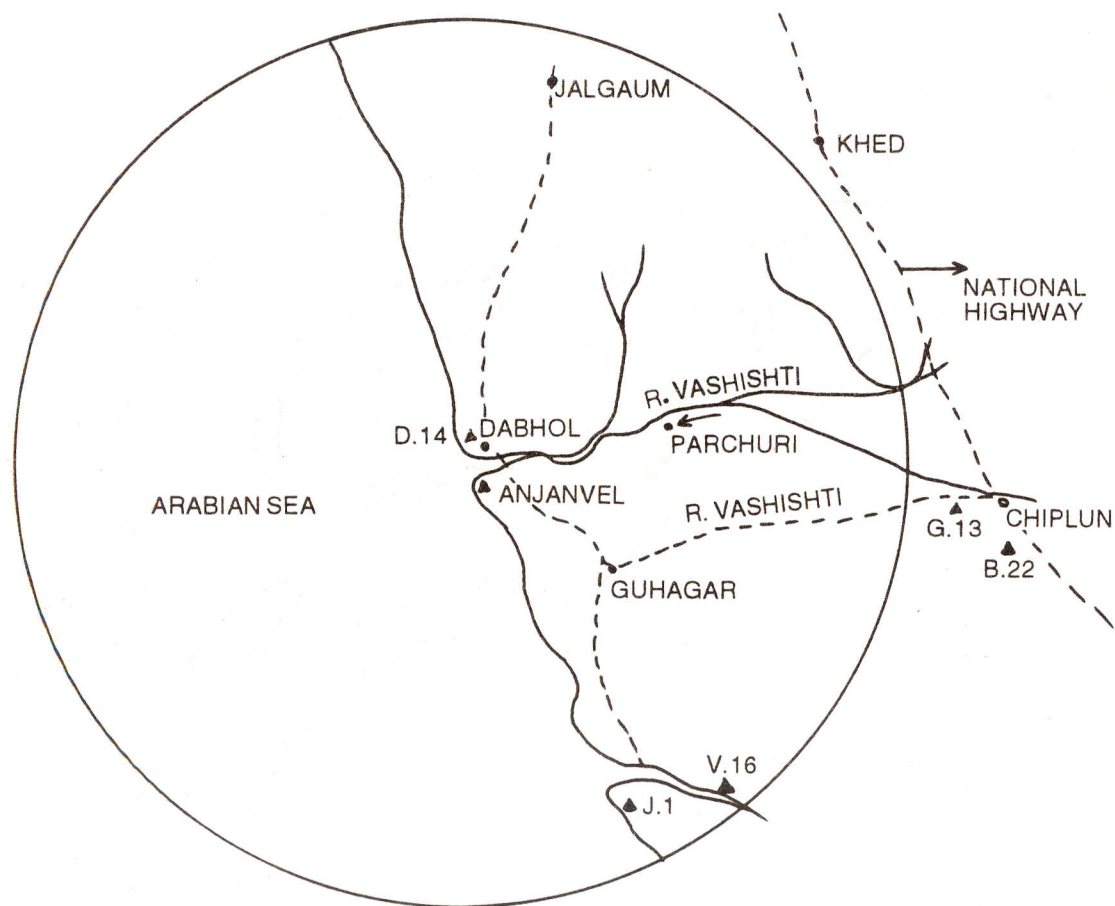


Fig. 79 : The Anjanvel Cluster Total Forts 6

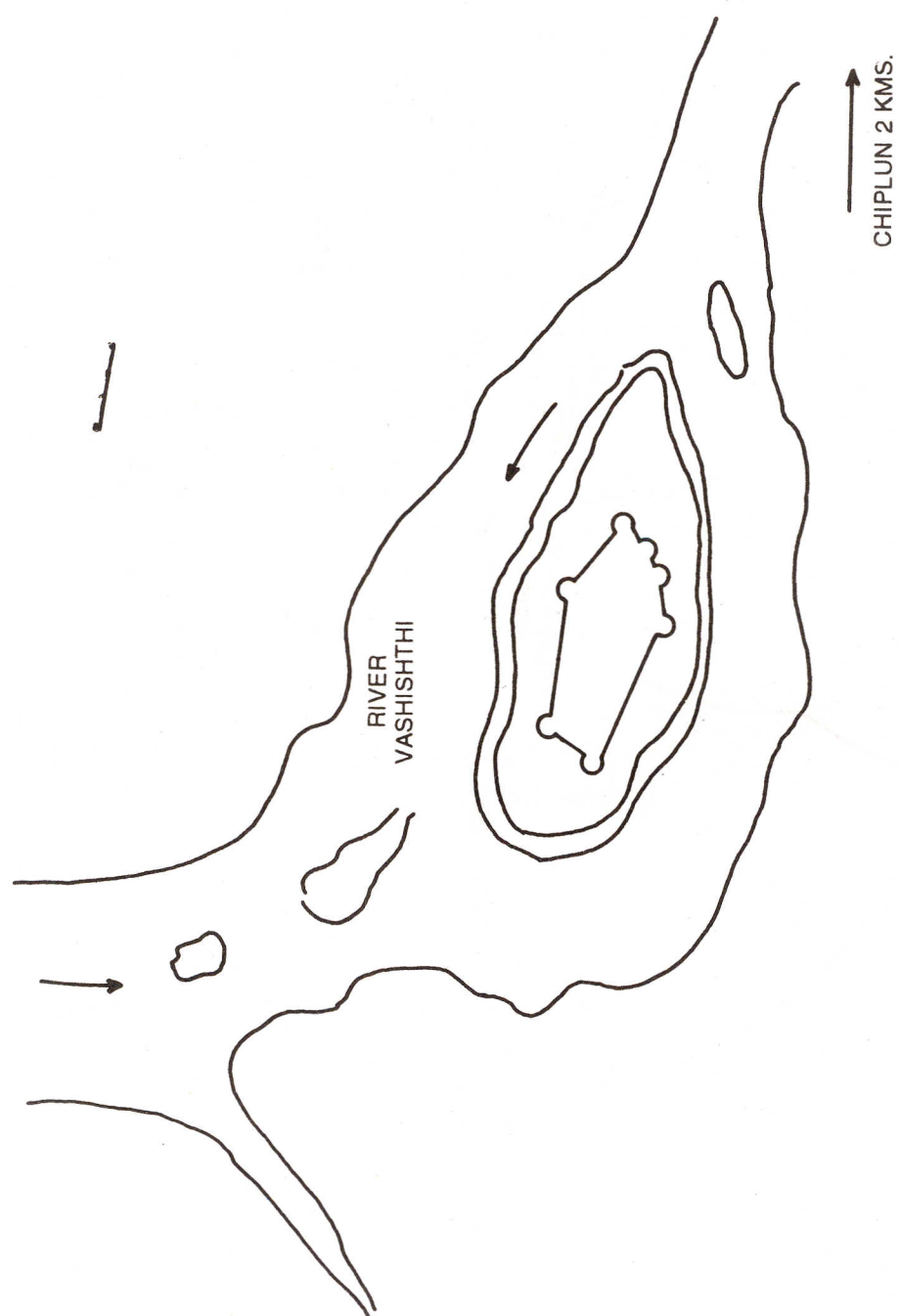


Fig. 80 : Fort Govalkot

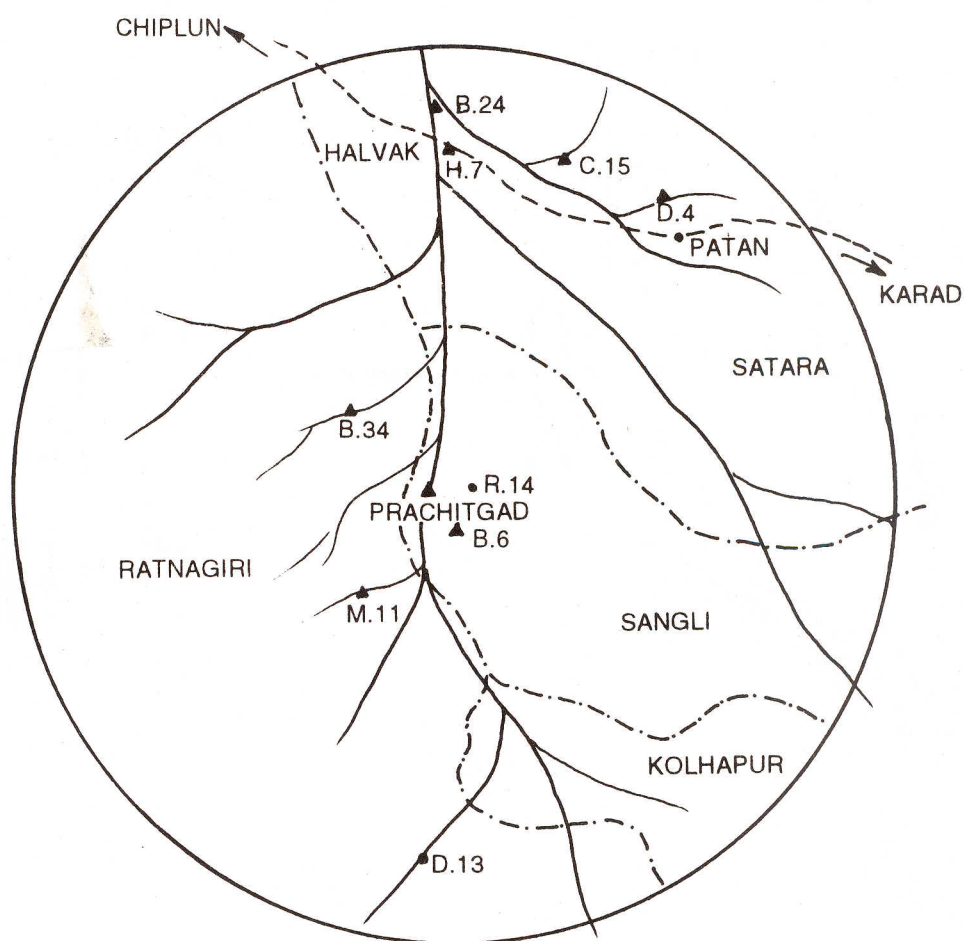


Fig. 81 : The Prachitgad Cluster Total Forts 10

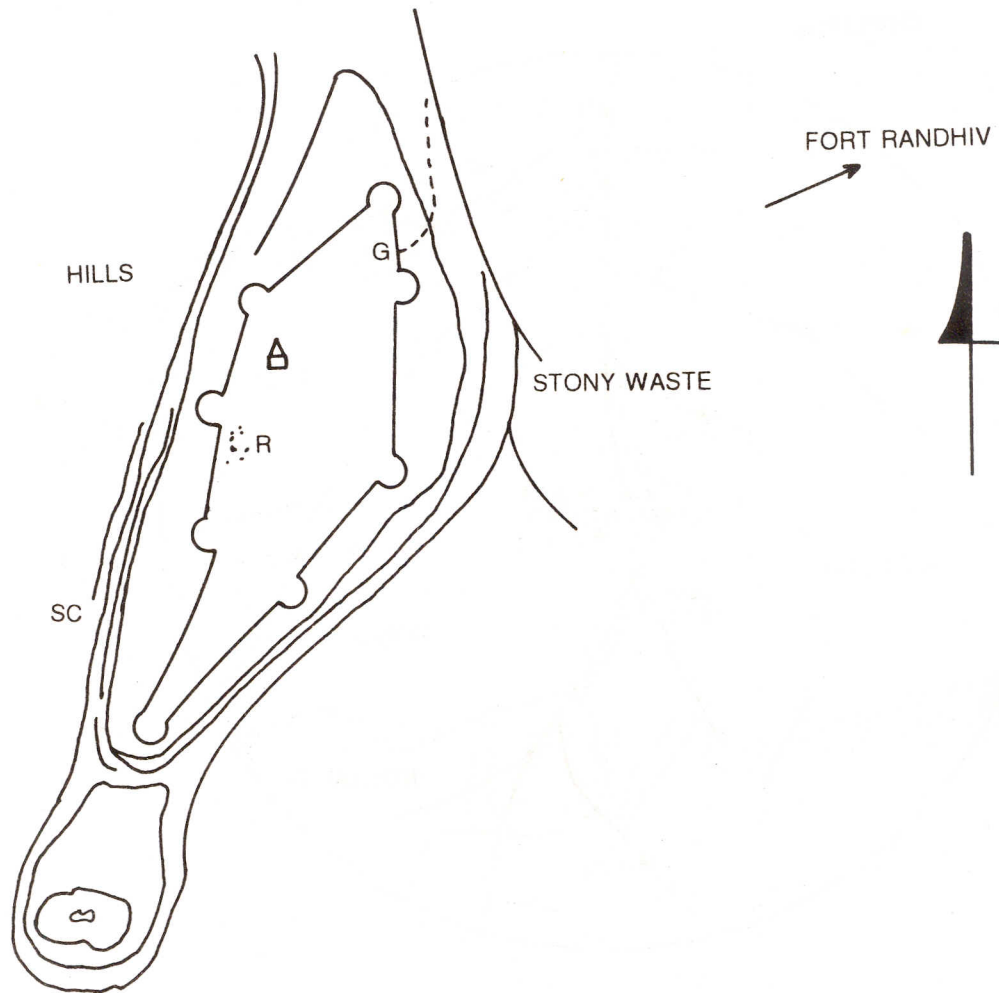


Fig. 82 : Fort Prachitgad

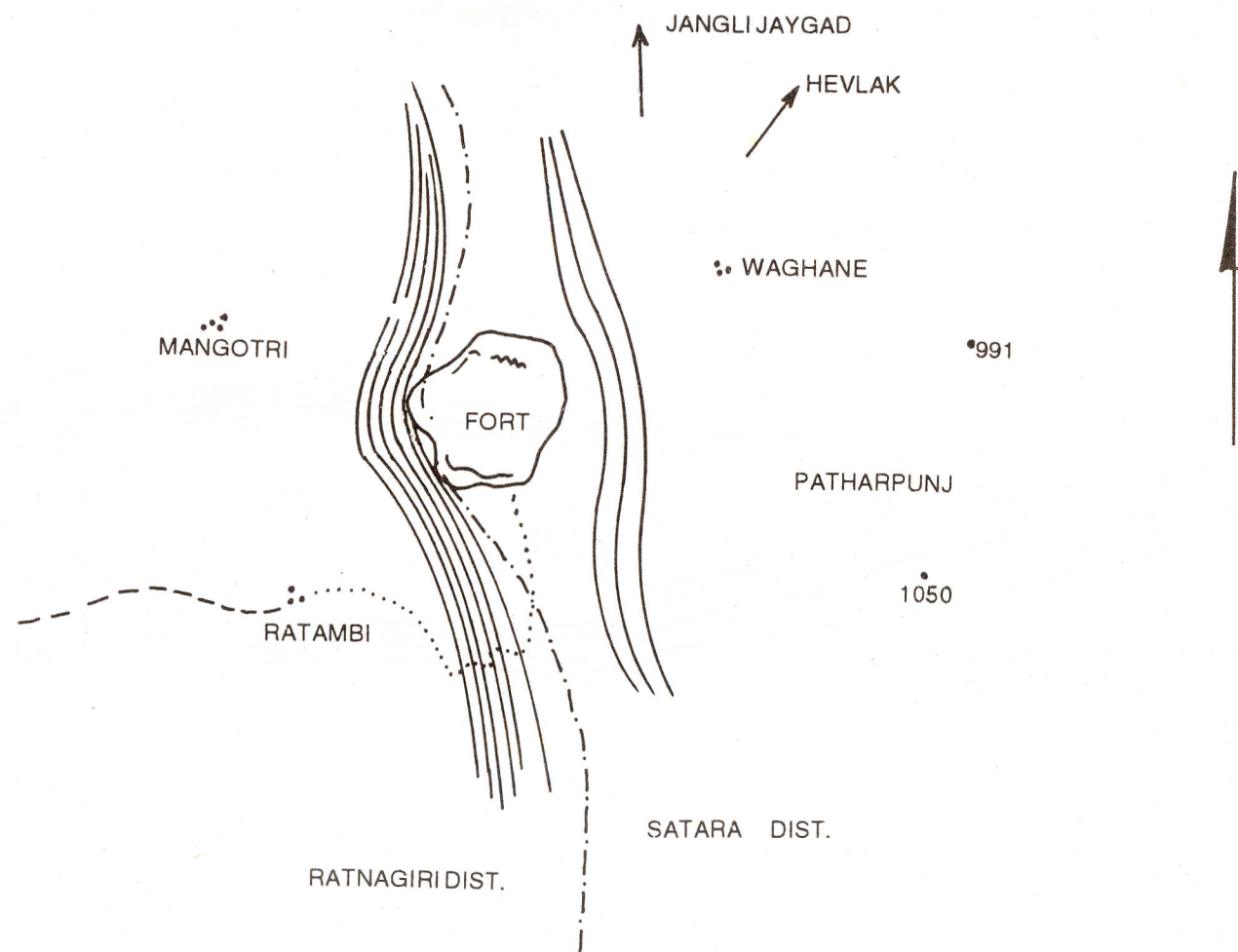


Fig. 83 : Fort Bhairavgad Location

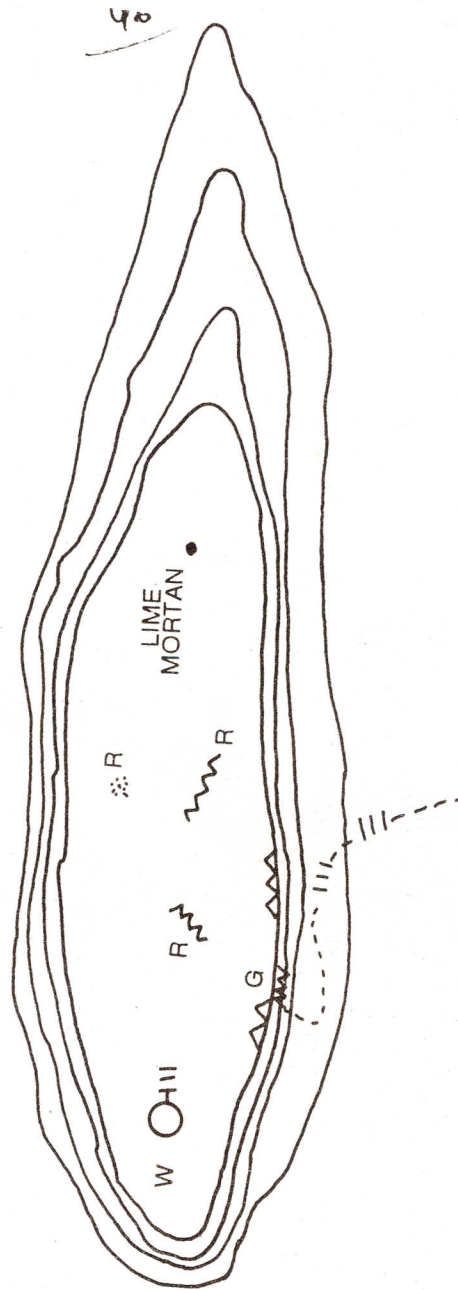


Fig. 84 : Fort Dategad

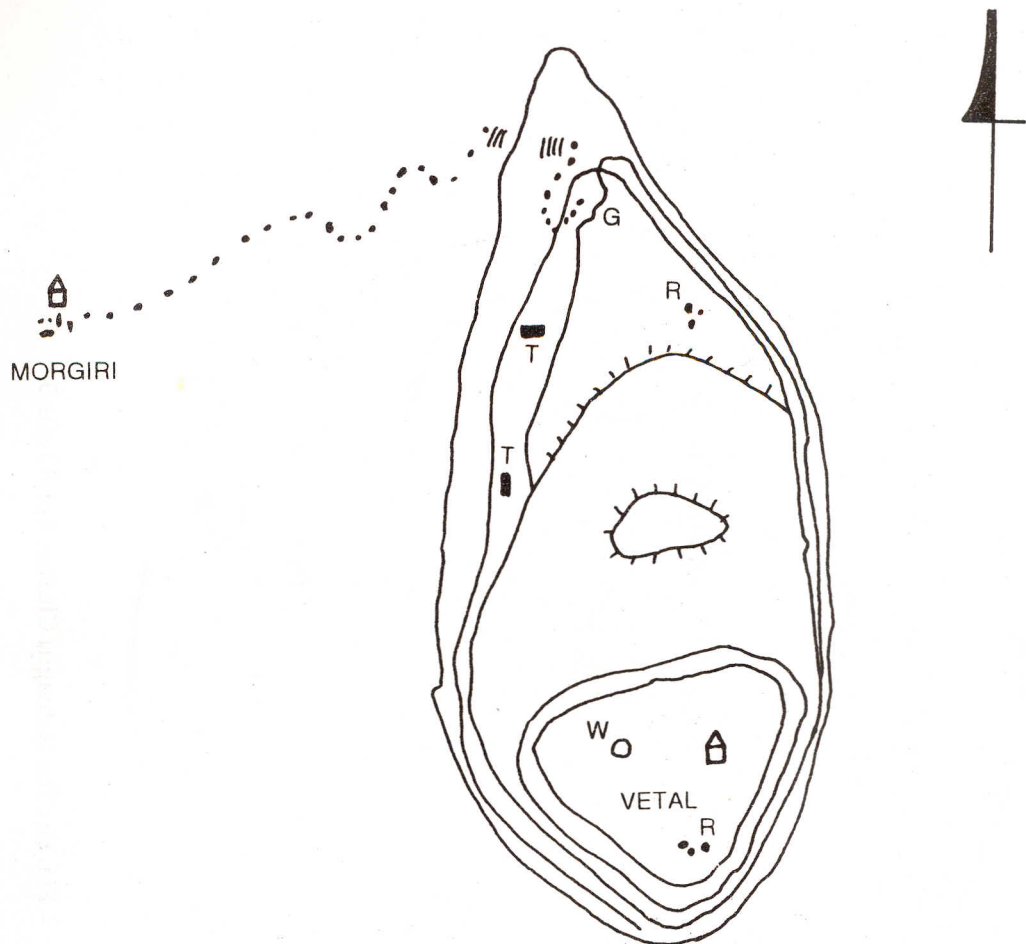


Fig. 85 : Fort Gunwantgad



Fig. 86 : The Ratnagiri Cluster, Total Forts 3

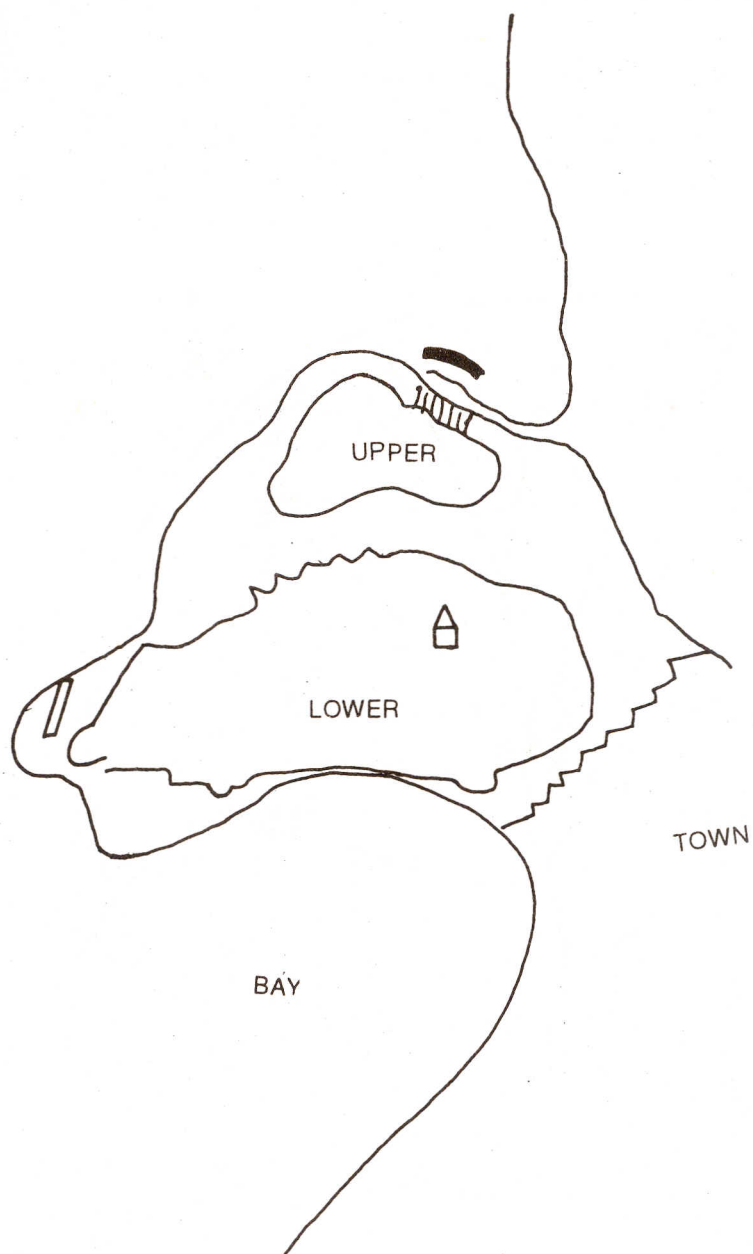


Fig. 87 : Fort Ratnagiri

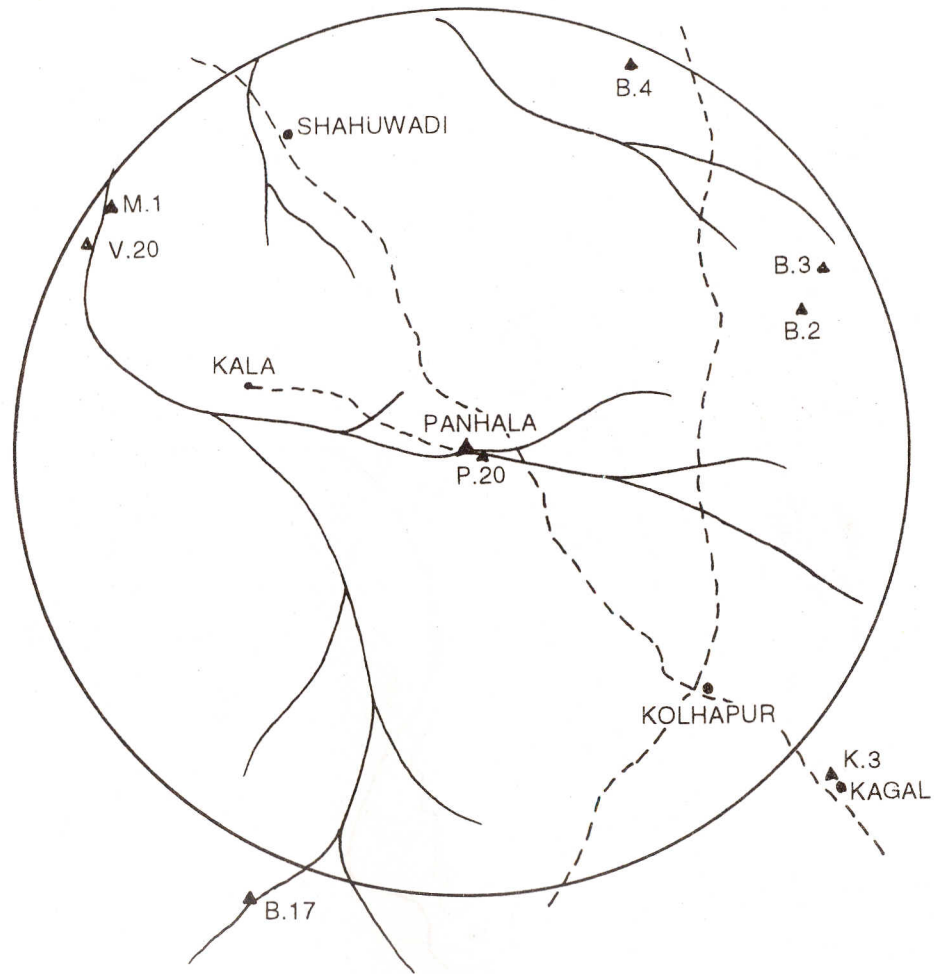
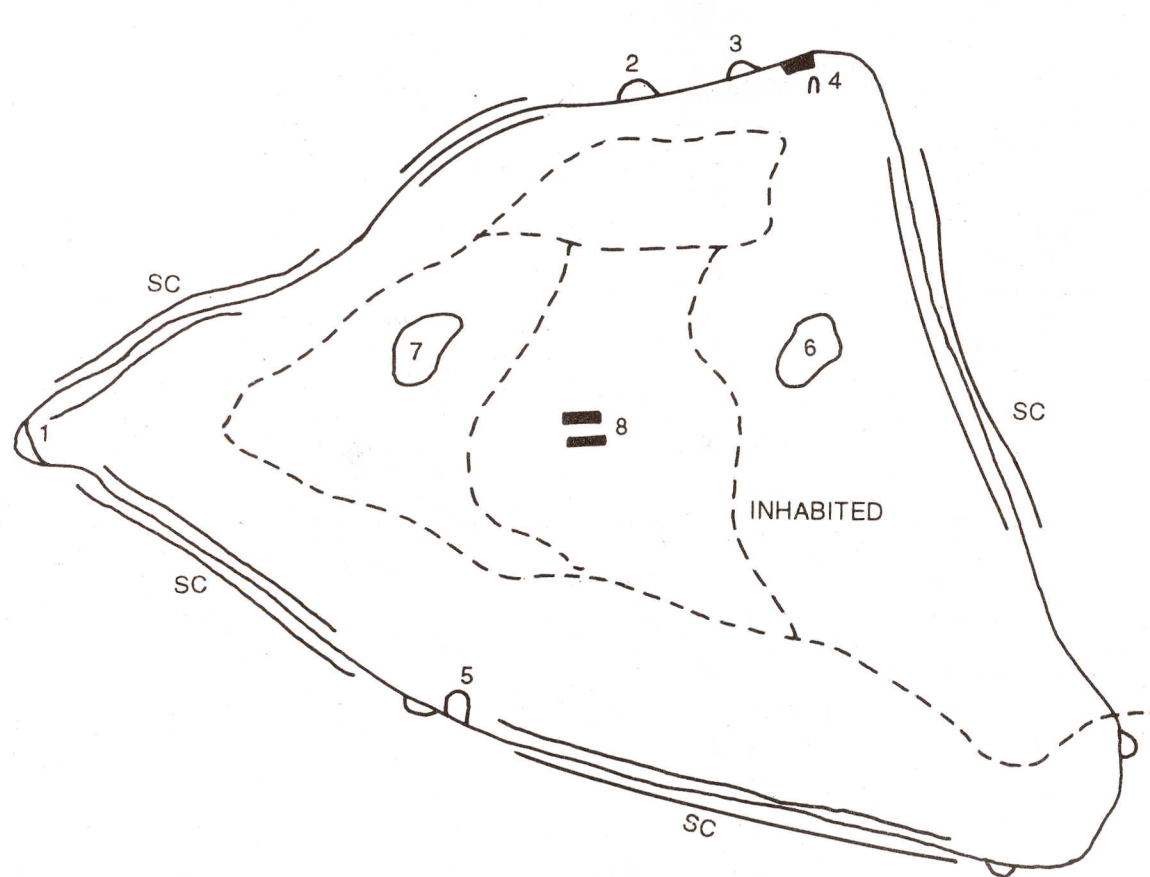


Fig. 88 : The Pabhala Cluster, Total Forts 9



1. PUSALI BASTION
3. DUTANDI BASTION
5. TIN DARWAJA
7. KOKAD TANK

2. DAULAT BASTION
4. WAGH DARWAJA
6. SOMESHWAR TANK
8. GTANARIES

Fig. 89 : Fort Panhala

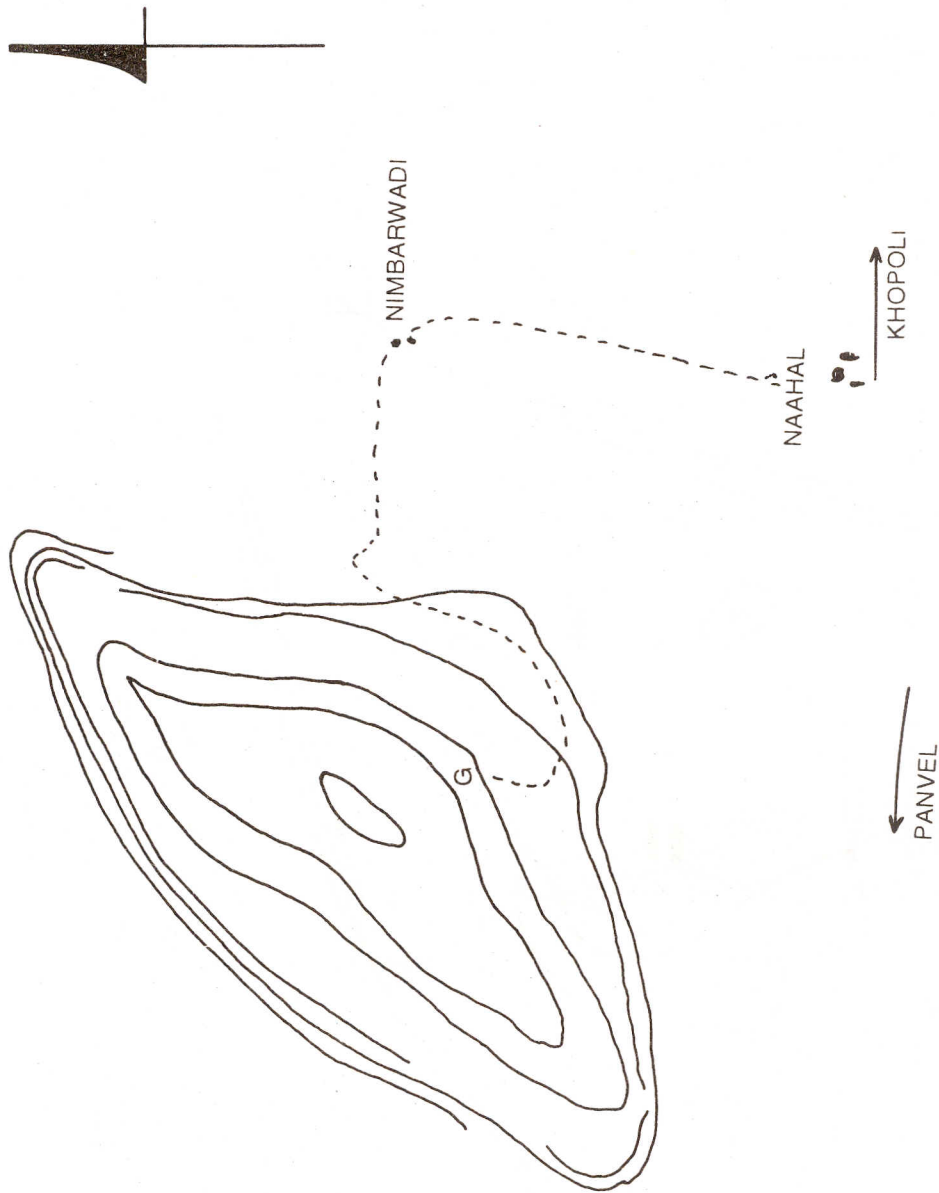


Fig. 90 : Fort Vishalgad

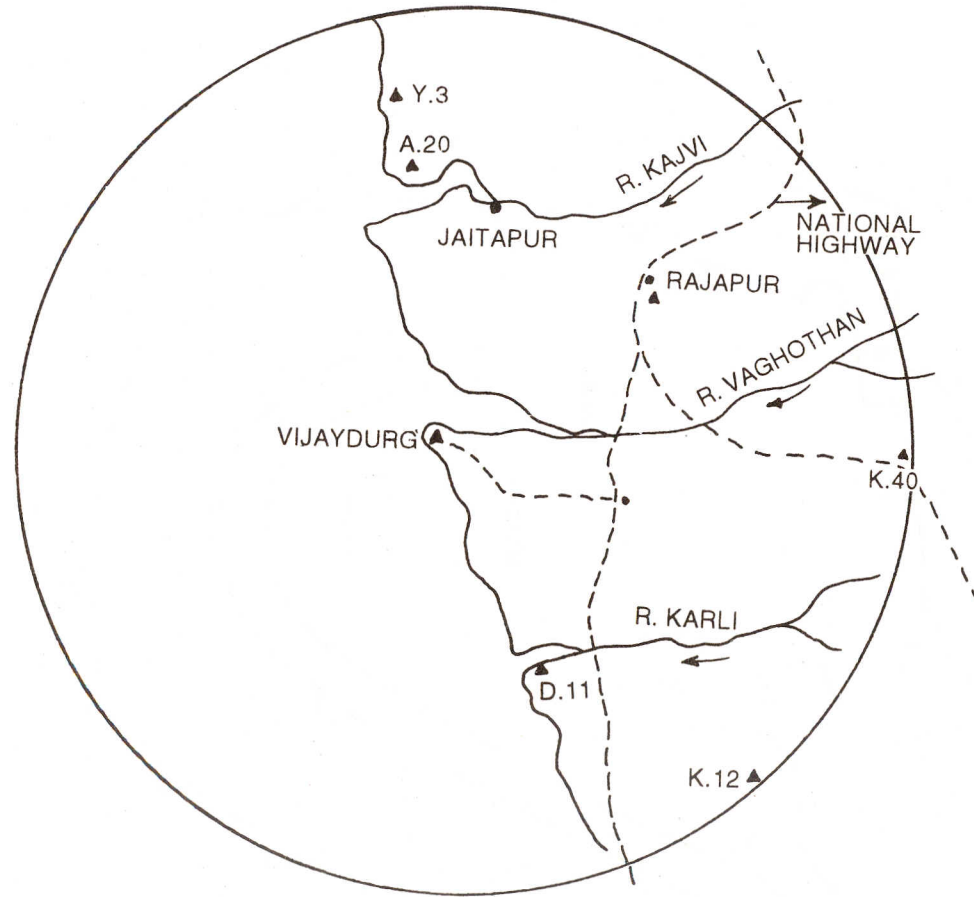


Fig. 91 : The Vijaydurg Cluster, Total Forts 7

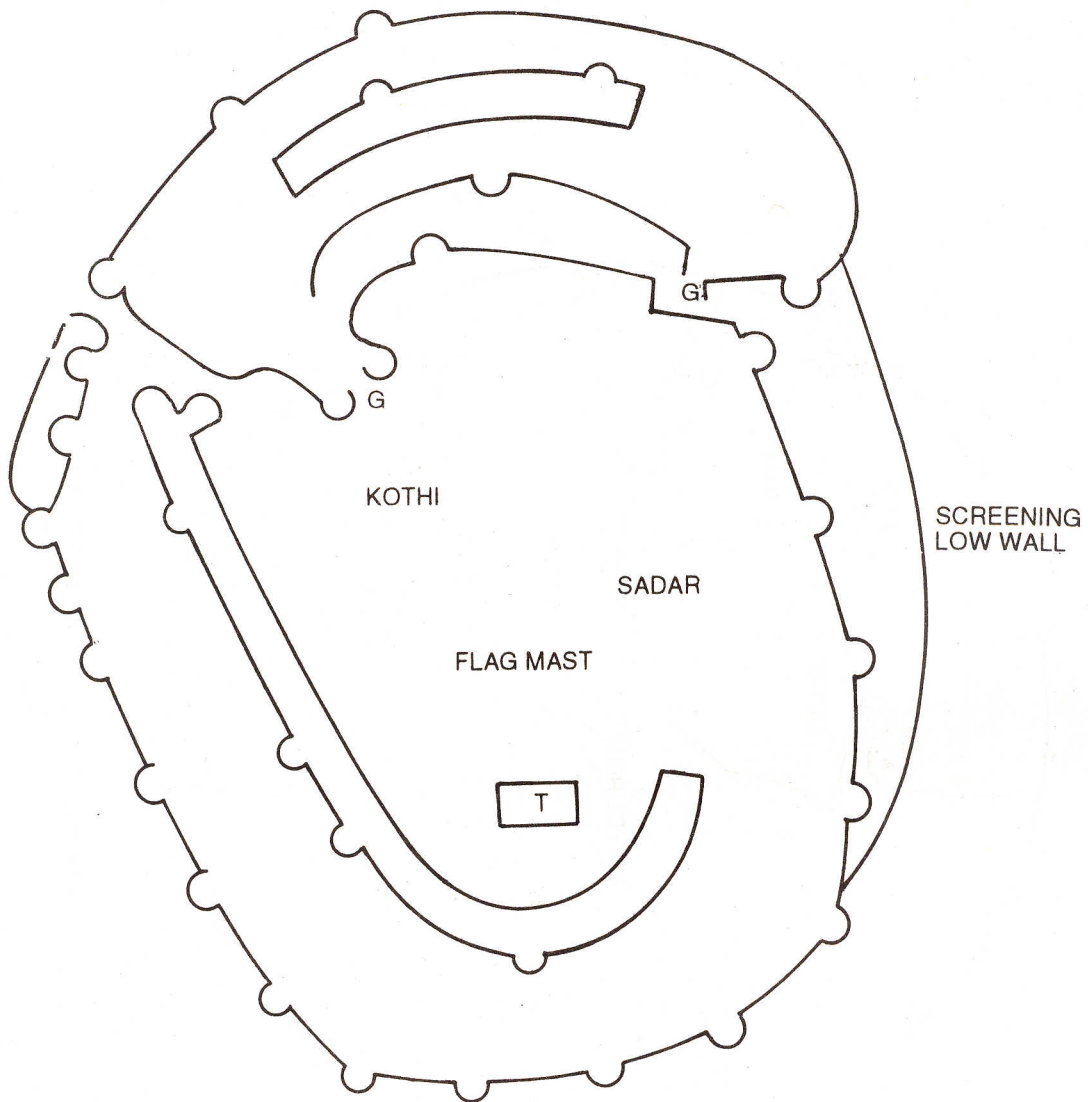


Fig. 92 : Fort Vijaydurg

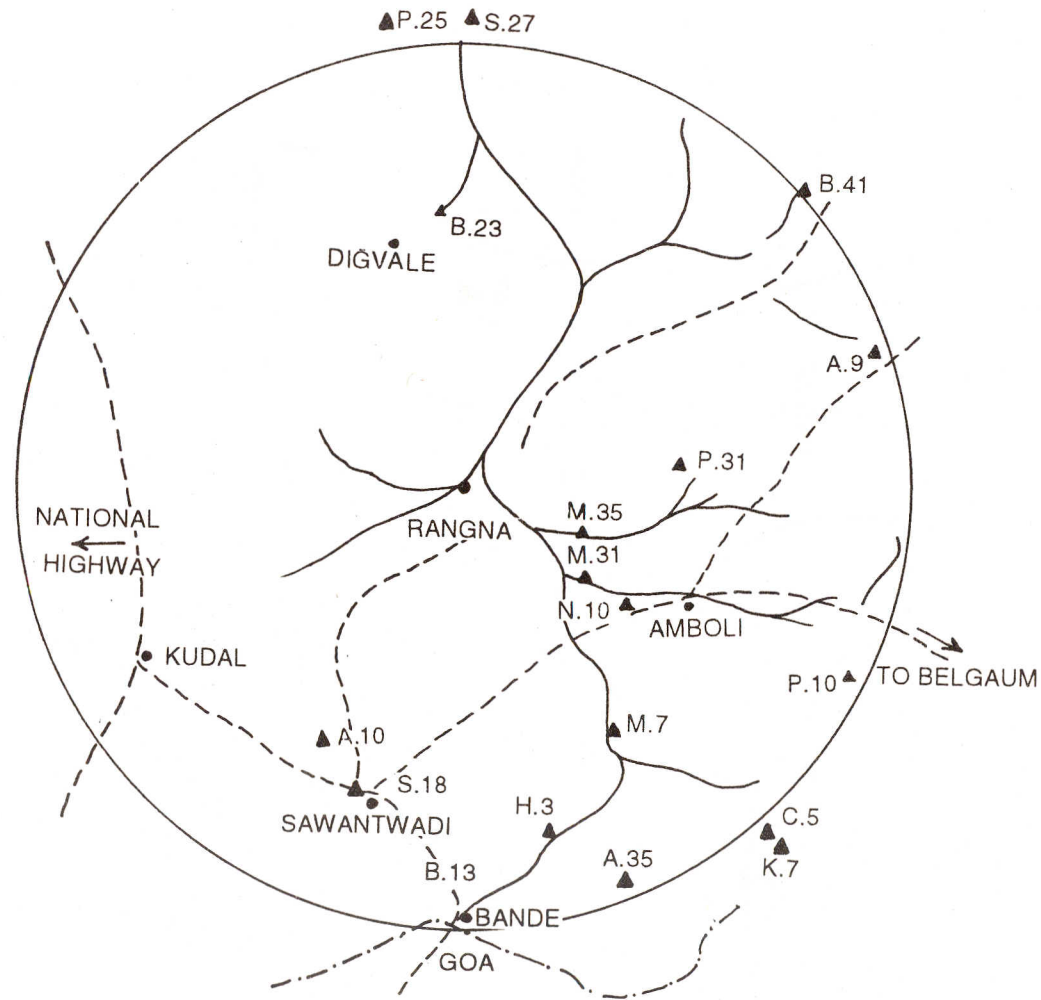


Fig. 93 : The Rangna Cluster, Total Forts 19

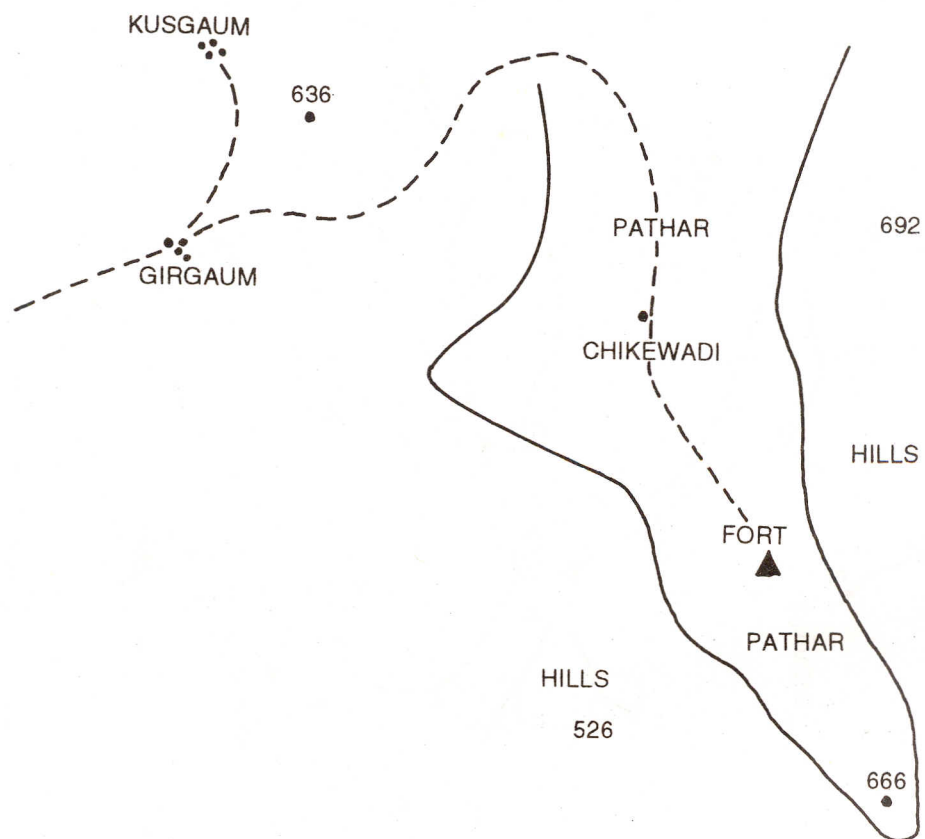


Fig. 94 : Fort Rangna Location

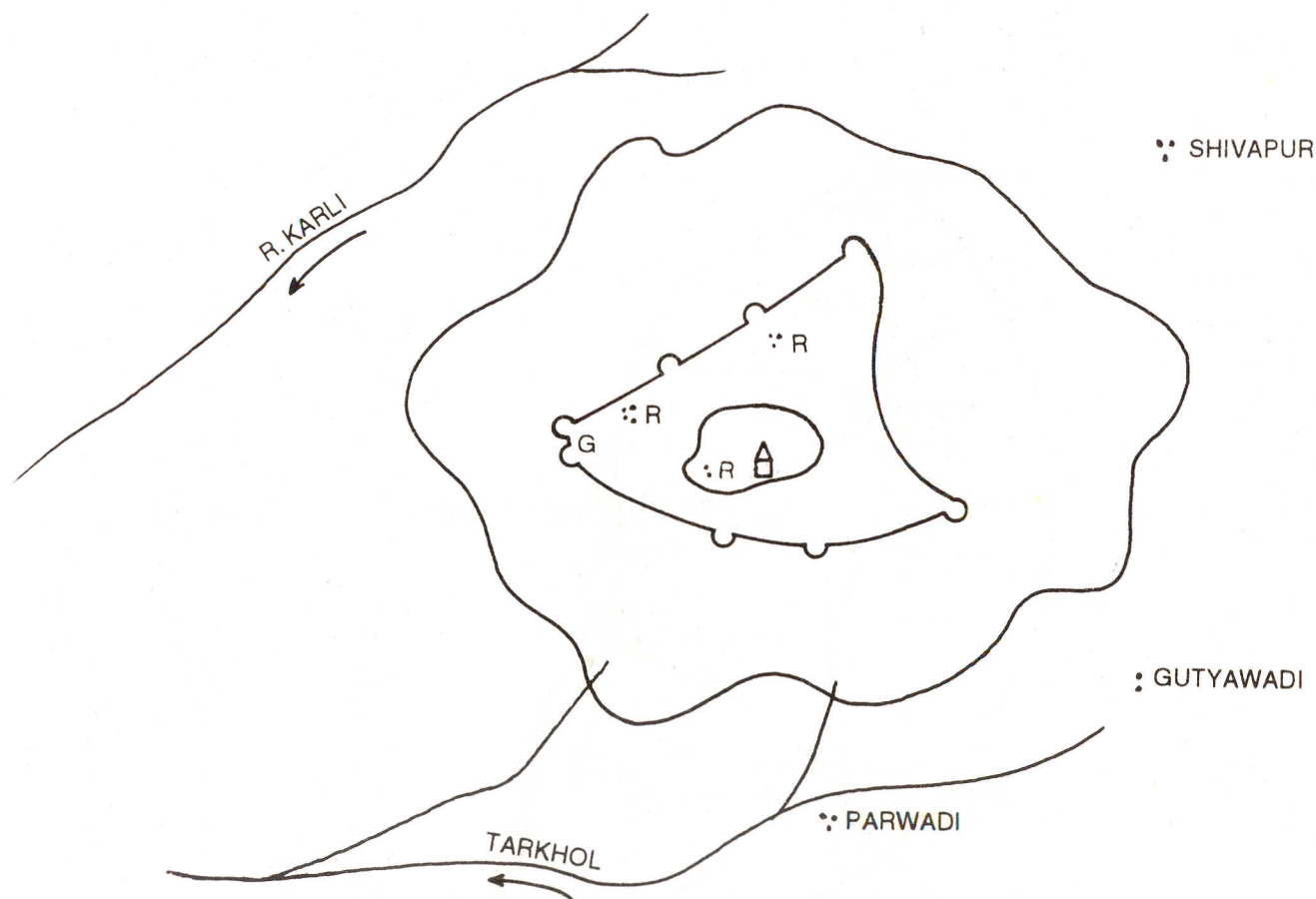


Fig. 95 : Fort Manohargad

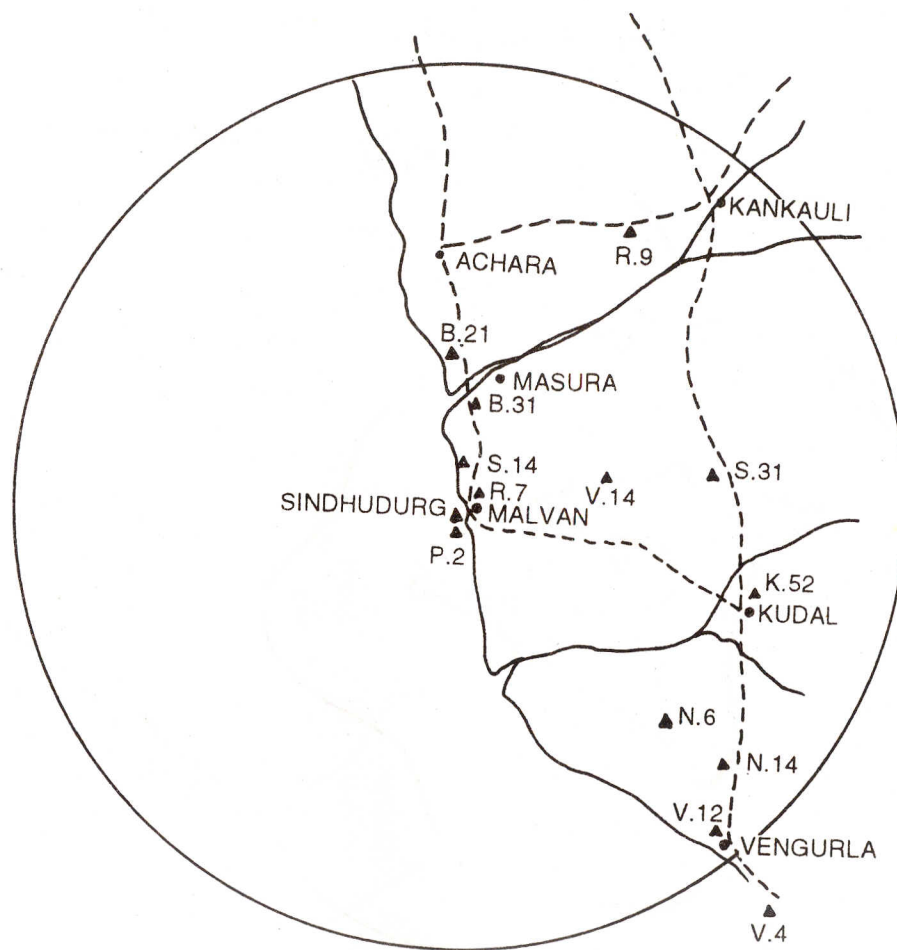


Fig. 96 : The Sindhudurg Cluster, Total Forts 14

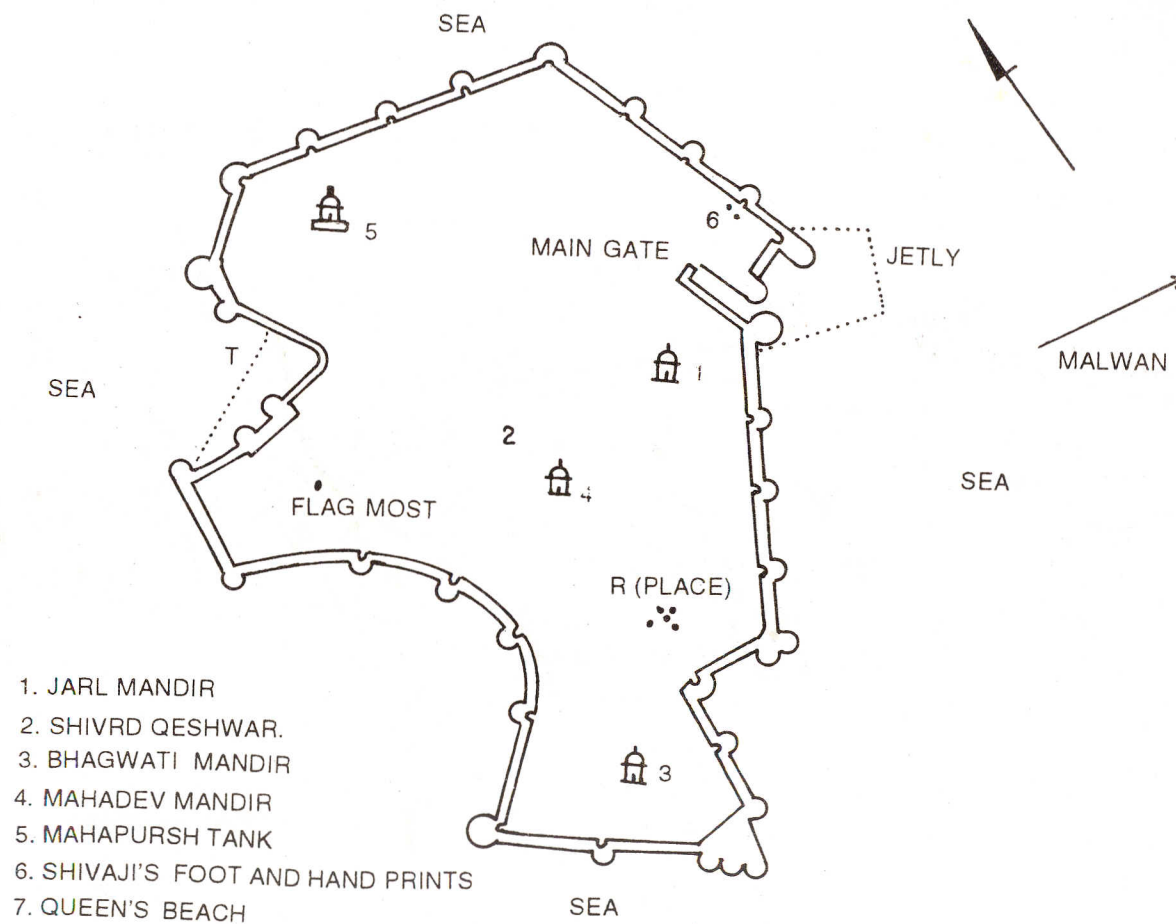


Fig. 97 : Fort Sindhudurg

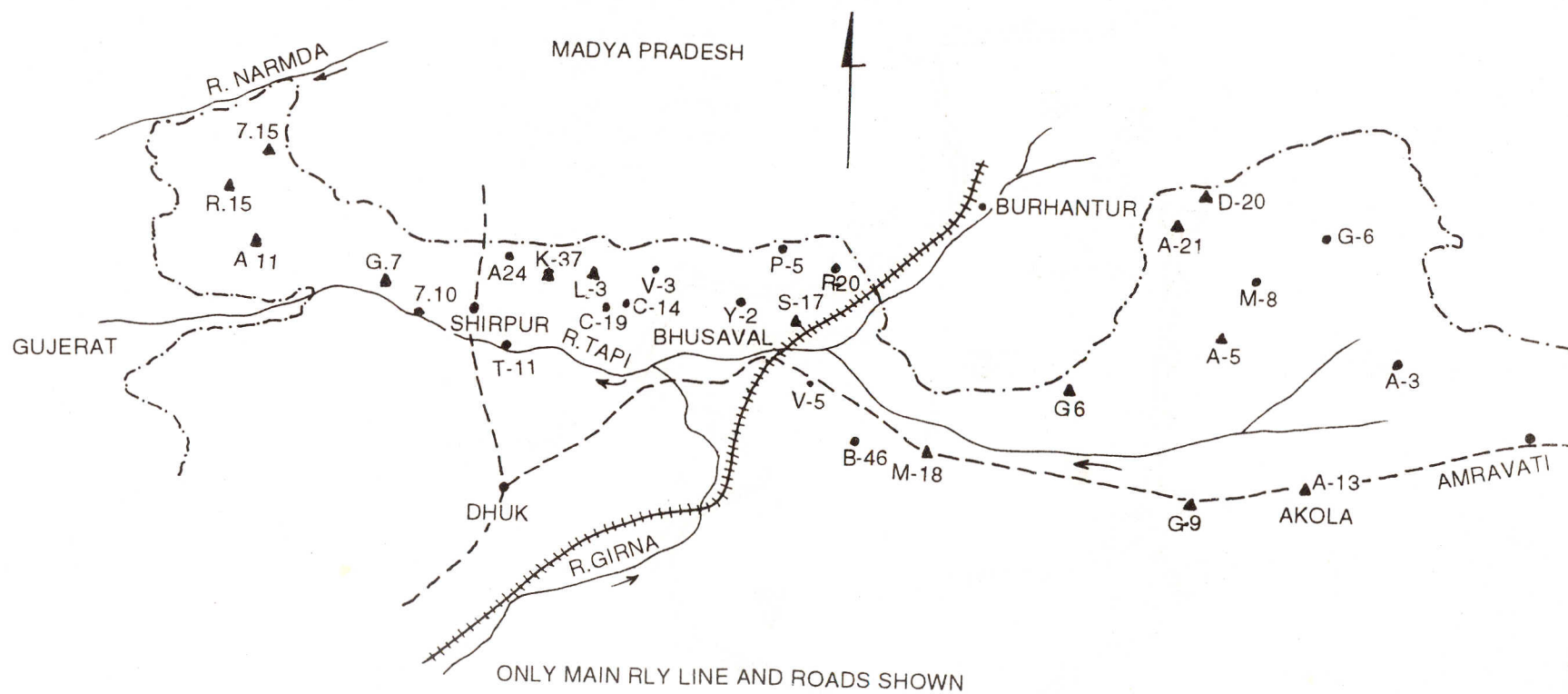


Fig. 98 : The Northern Line From Toranmal to Amravati

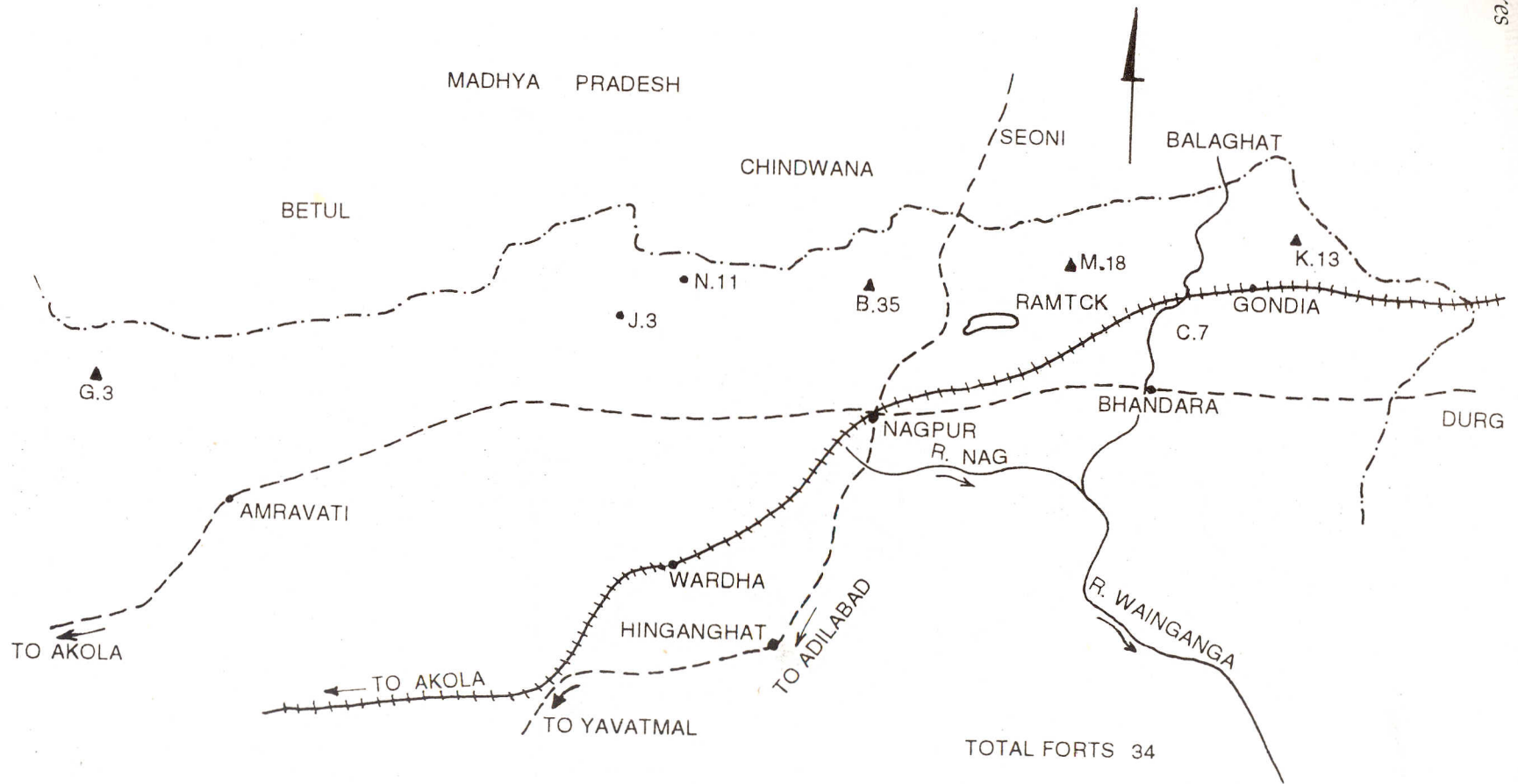


Fig. 99 : The Northern Line from Amravati to Gondia - Fort Kamtha

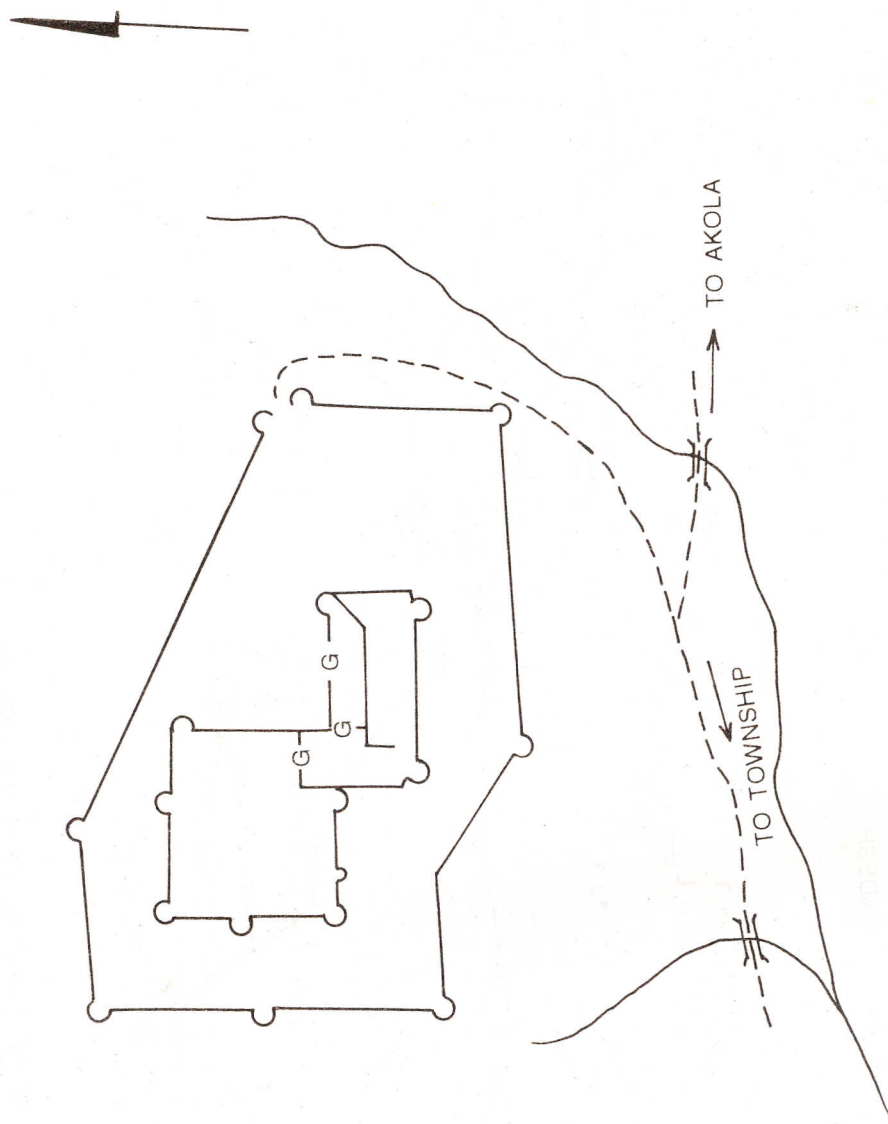


Fig. 100 : Fort Balapur

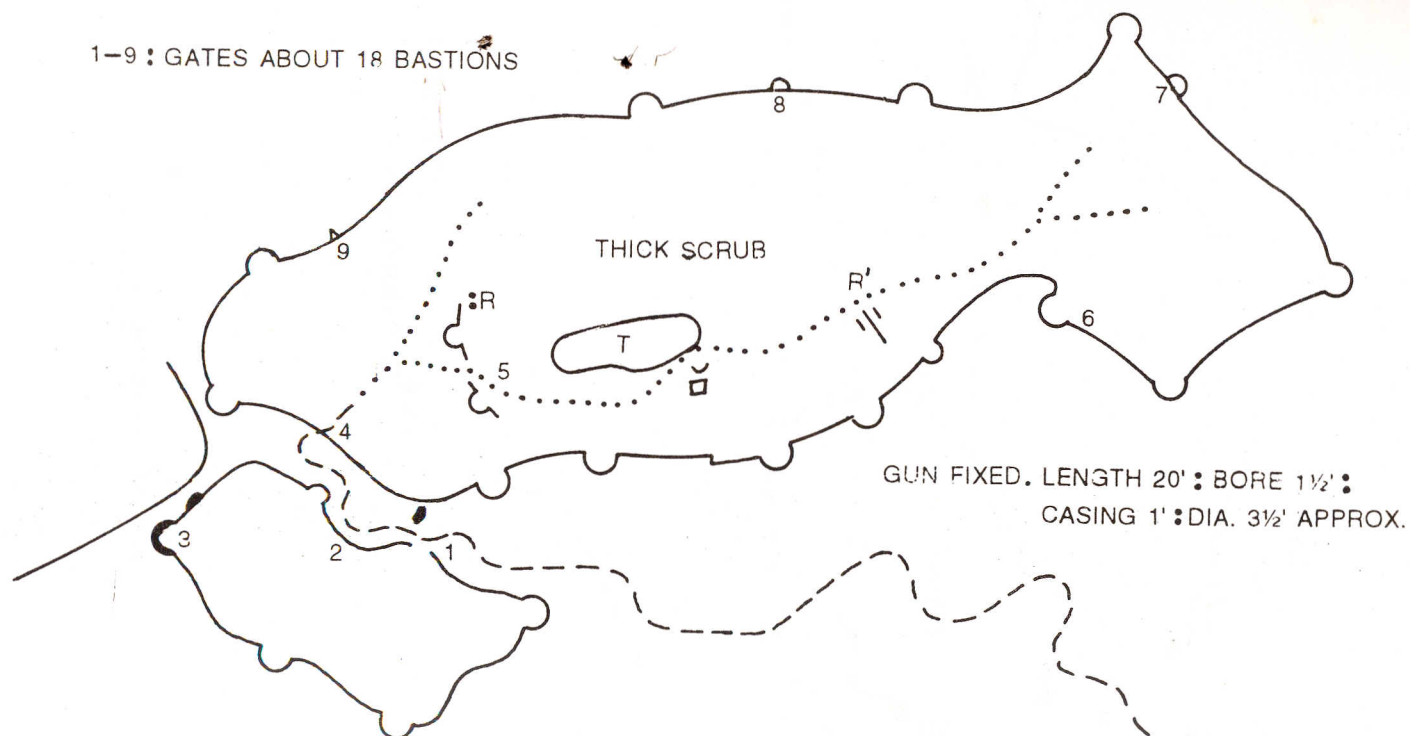


Fig. 101 : Fort Narnala

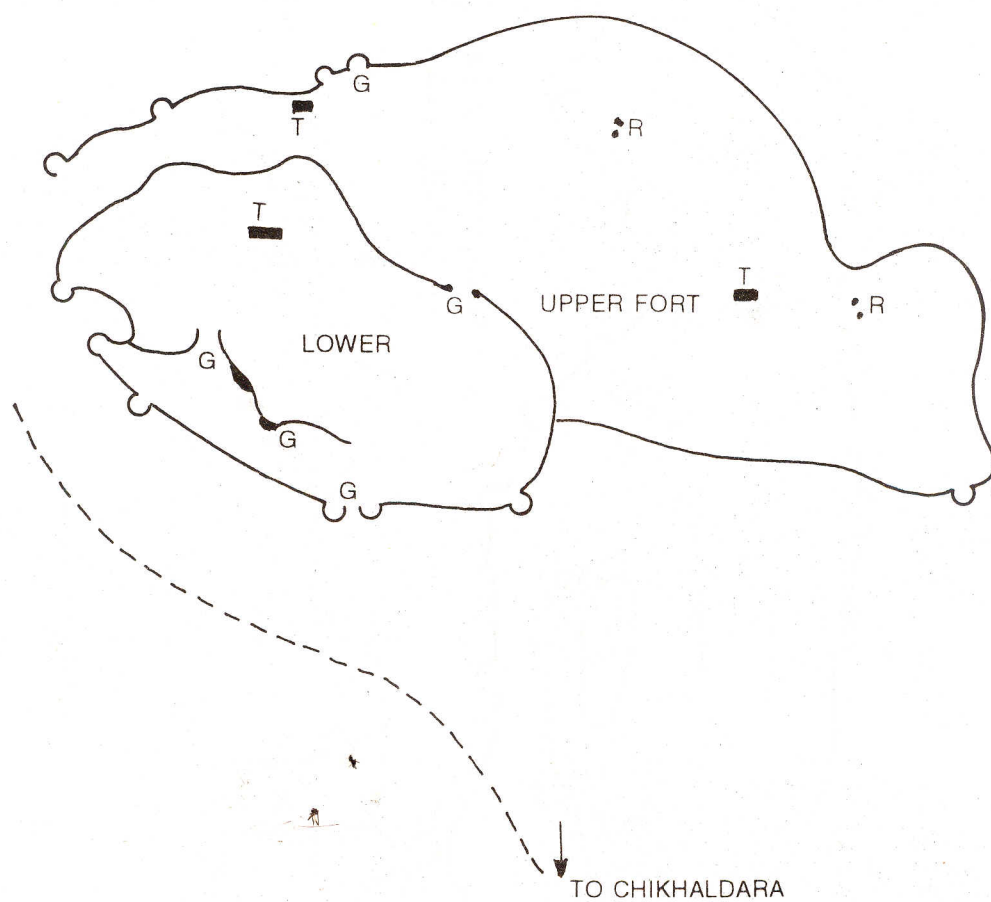


Fig. 102 : Fort Gawilgad

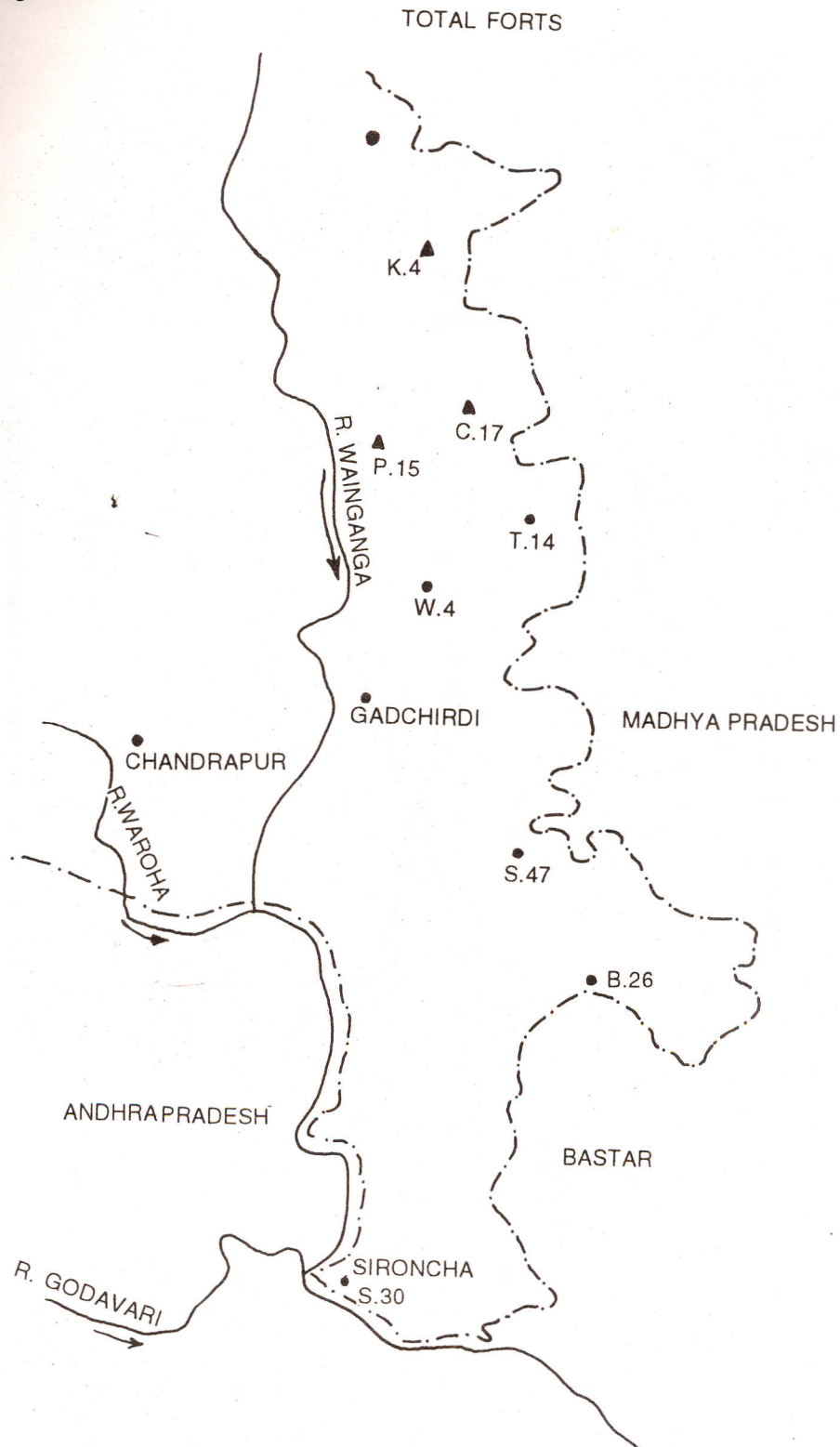


Fig. 103 : The Eastern Line

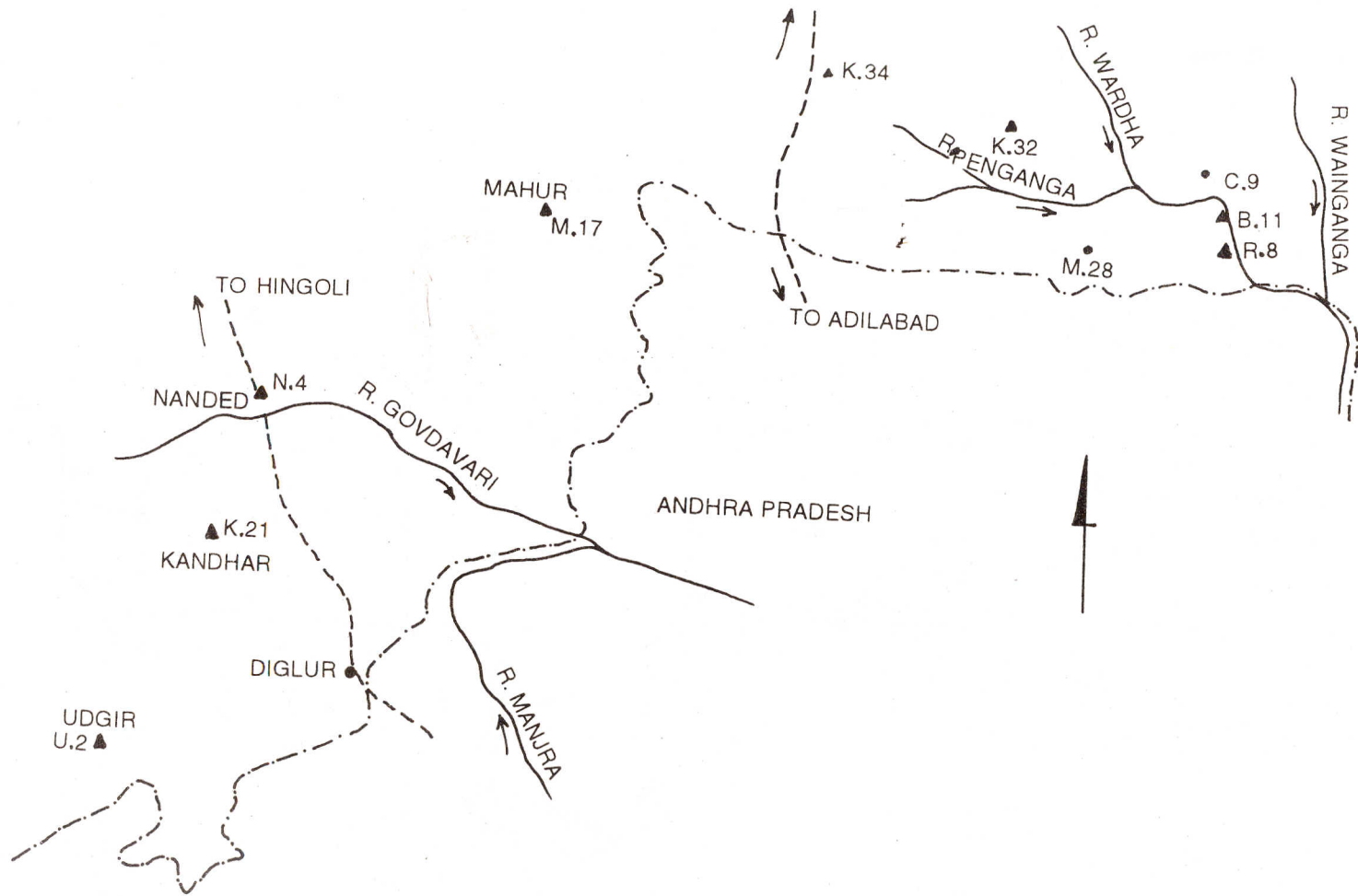


Fig. 104 : The Southern Line from Chandrapur to Udgir

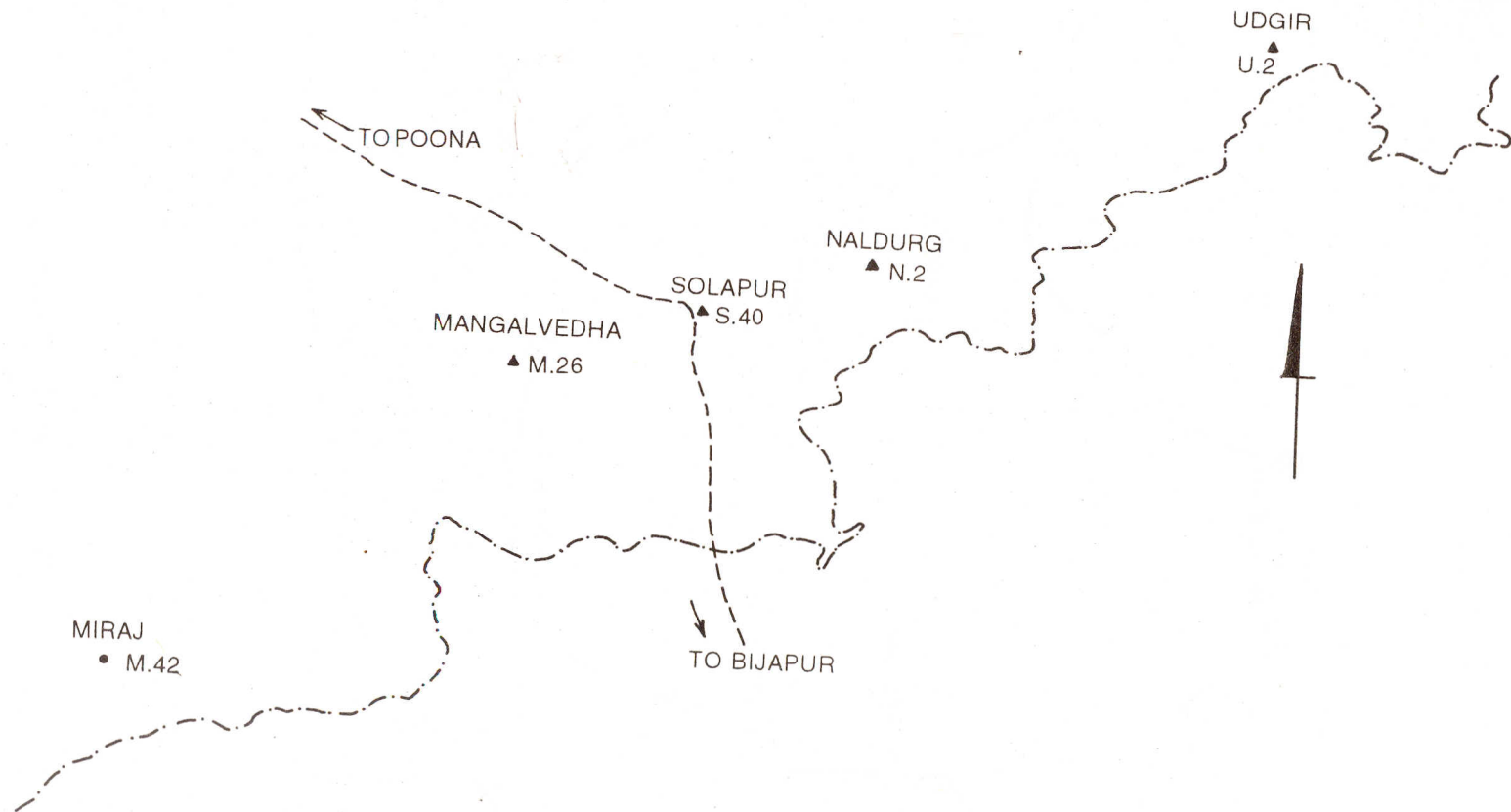


Fig. 105 : The Southern Line from Udgir to Miraj

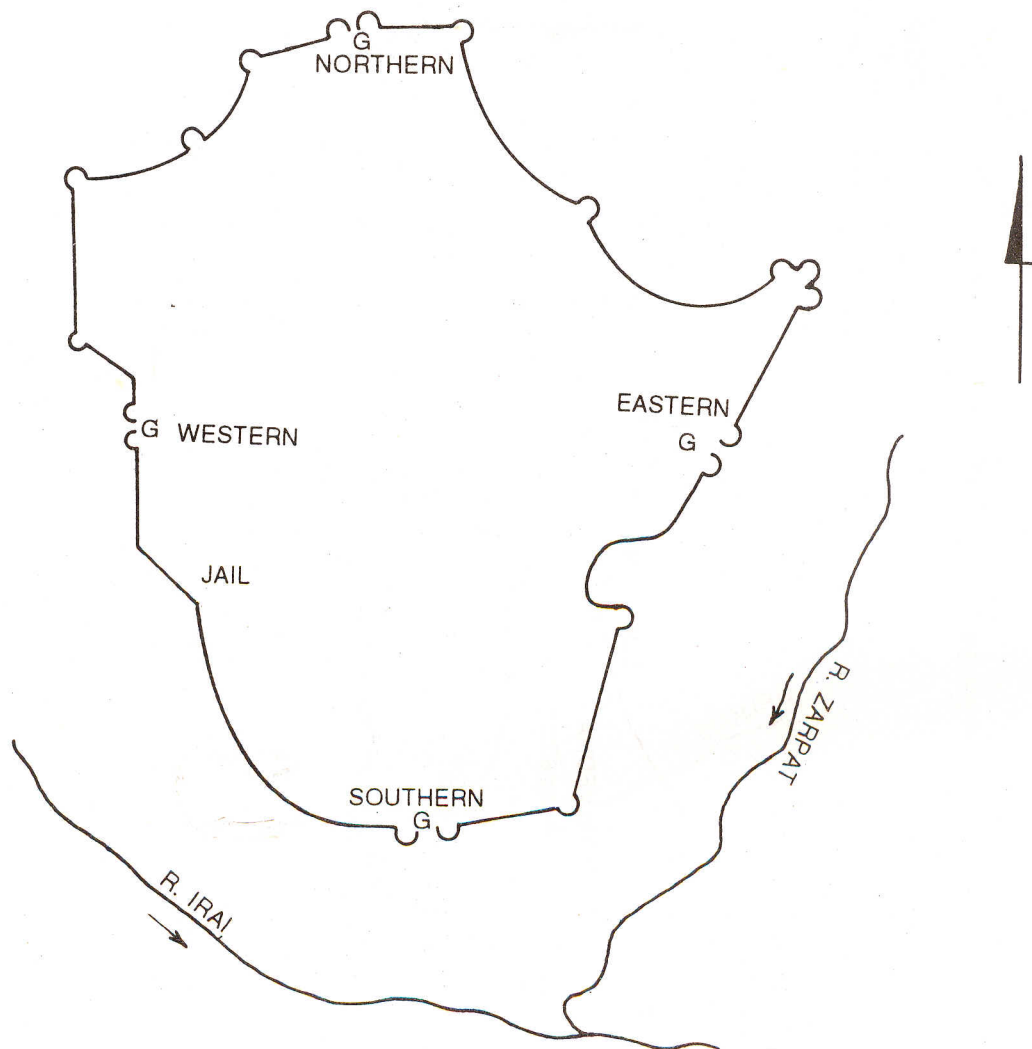


Fig. 106 : Fort Chandrapur

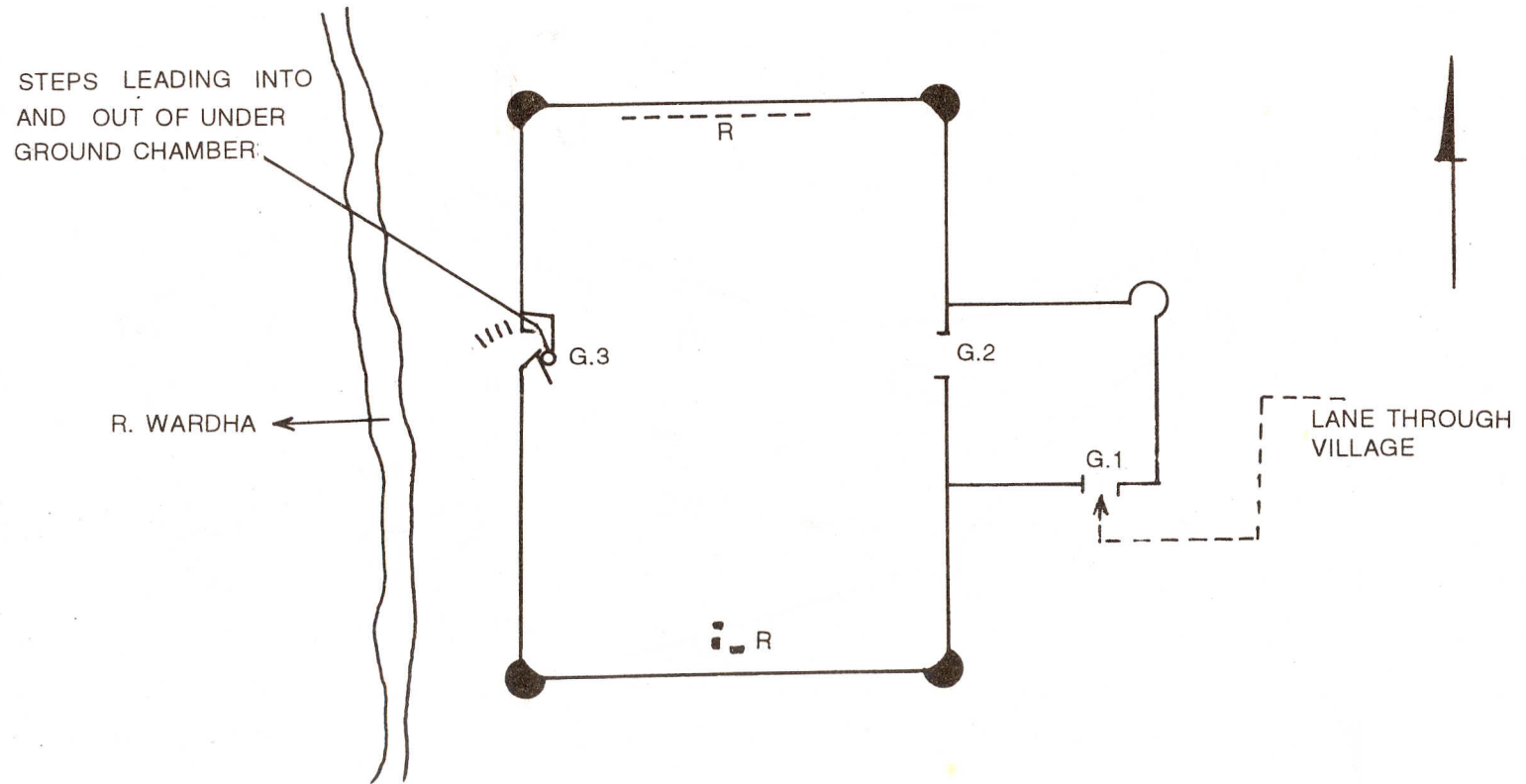
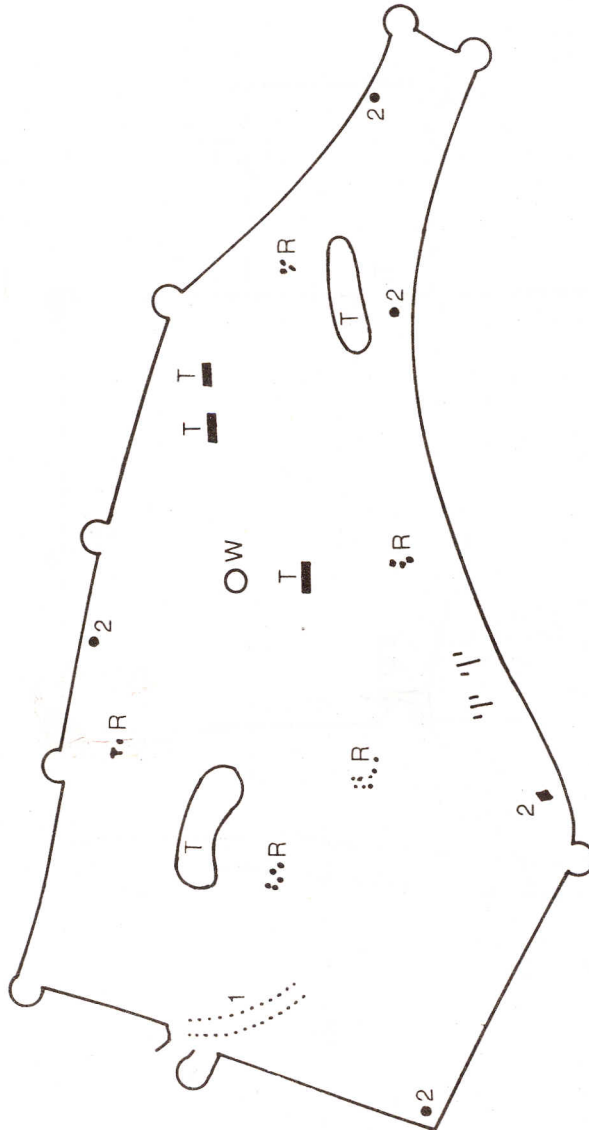
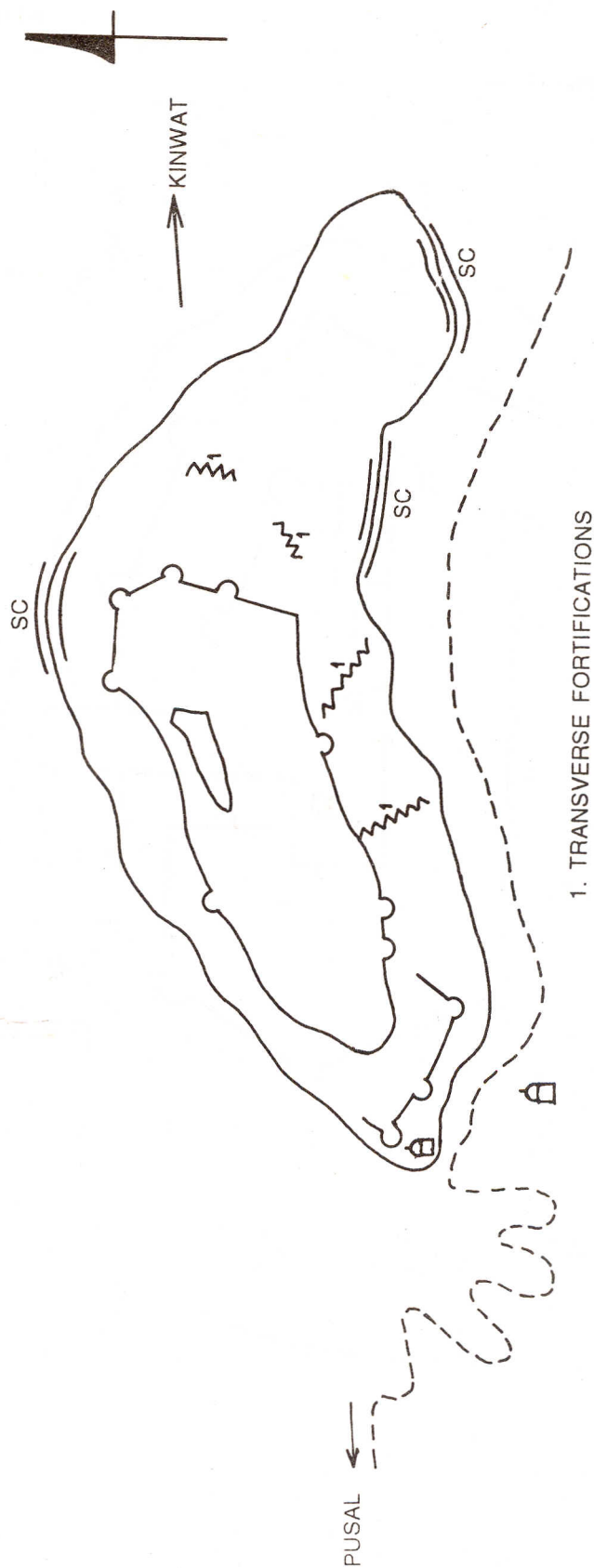


Fig. 107 : Fort Ballarpur



1. PASSAGE CUT THROUGH ROCK
2. TOWERS (IN RUINS)

Fig. 108 : Fort Manikgad



1. TRANSVERSE FORTIFICATIONS

Fig. 109 : Fort Mahur

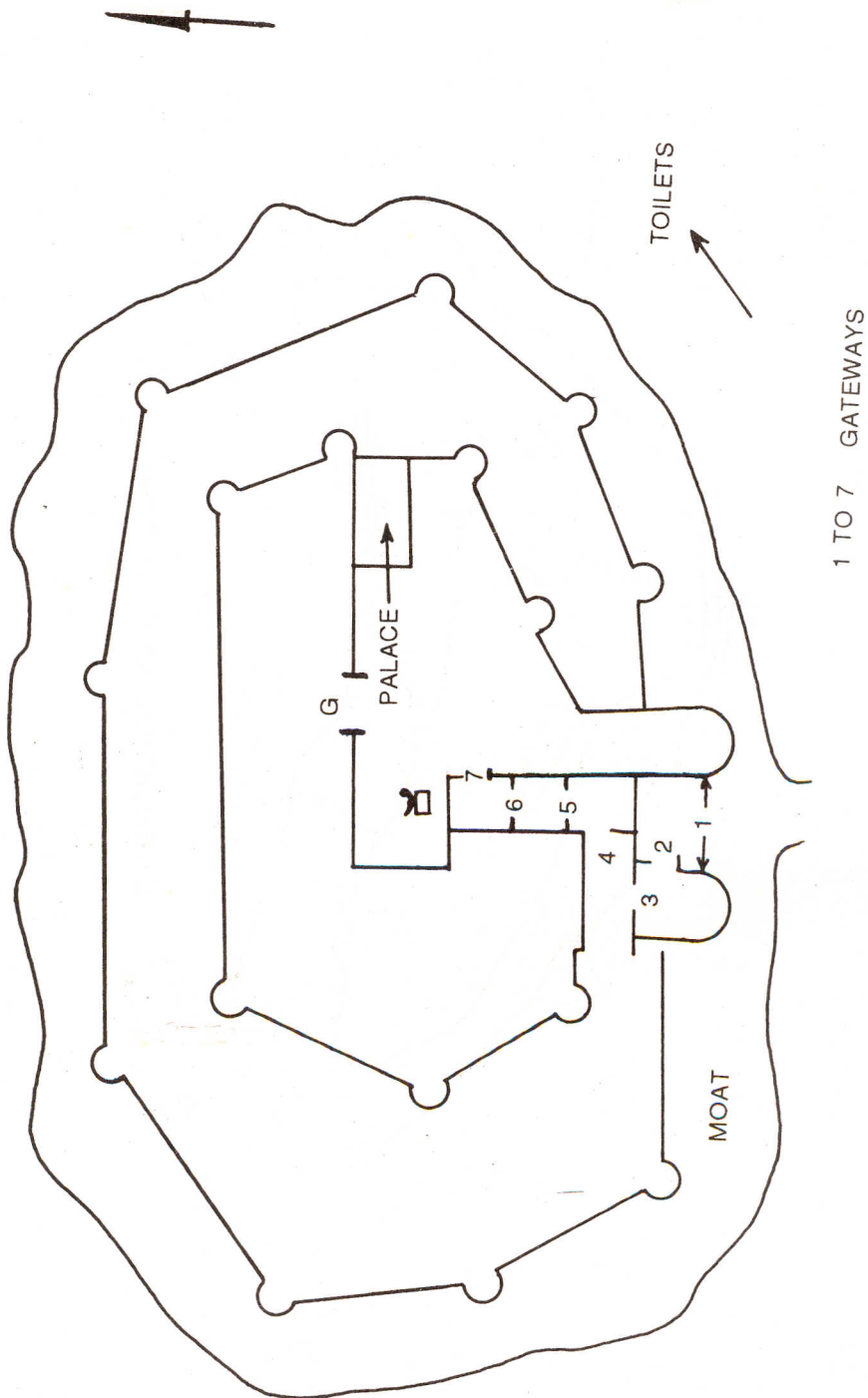


Fig. 110 : Fort Udgir

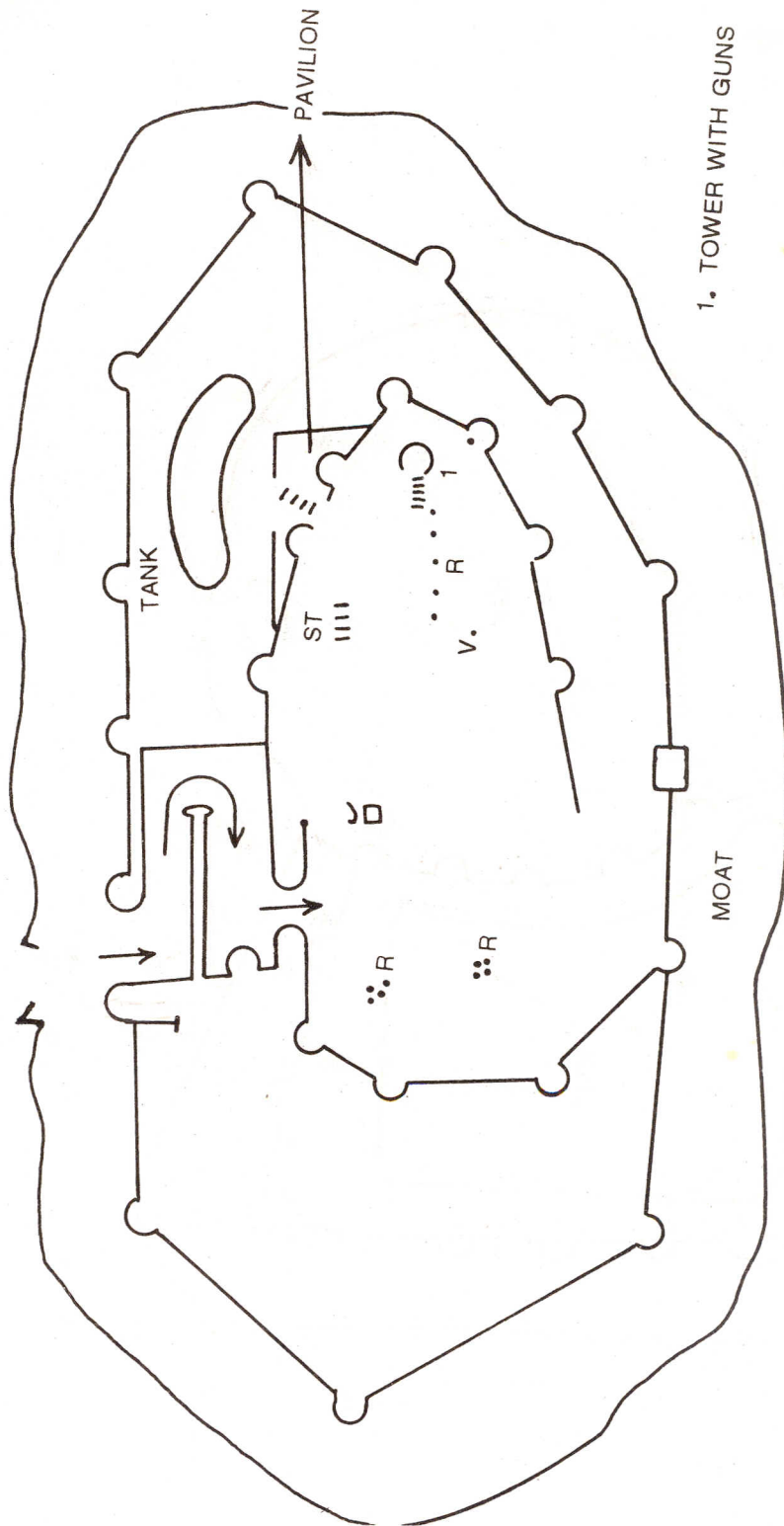
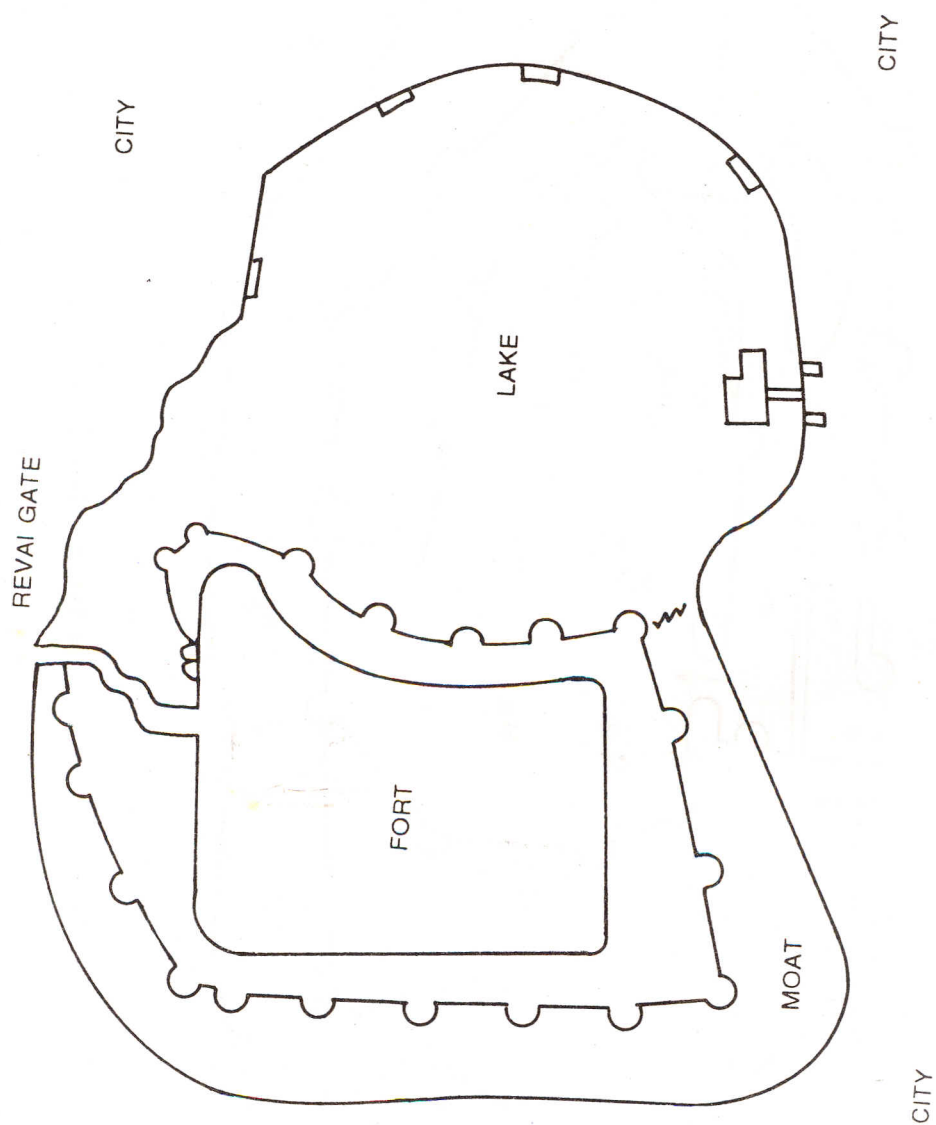


Fig. 111 : Fort Naladurg

**Fig. 112 : Fort Solapur**

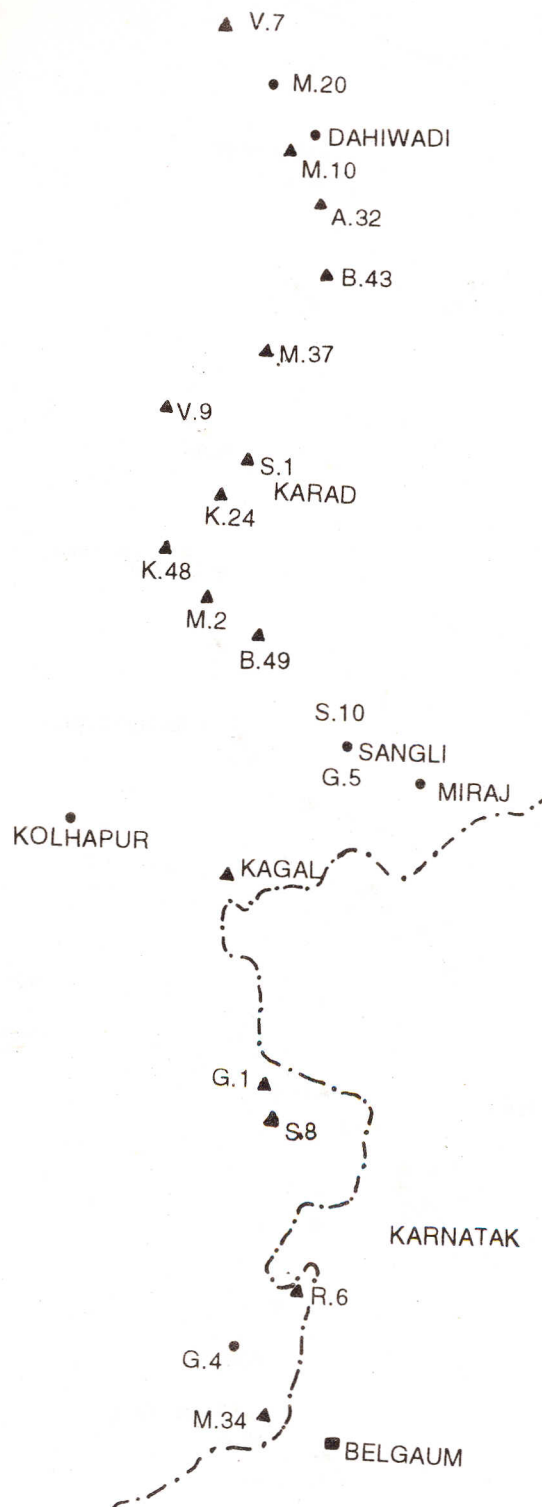


Fig. 113 : The Western Line from Mahipalga to Varugad

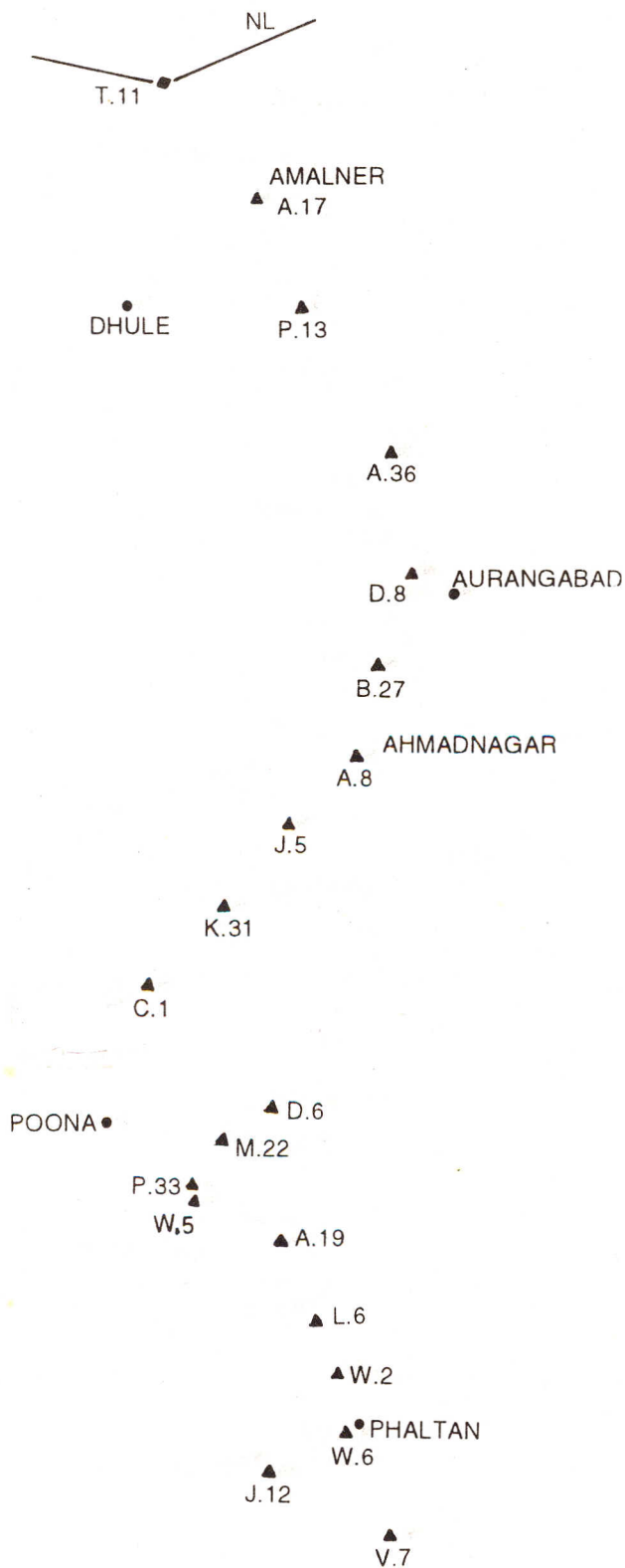


Fig. 114 : The Western Line from Varugad to Amalner Total Forts 37

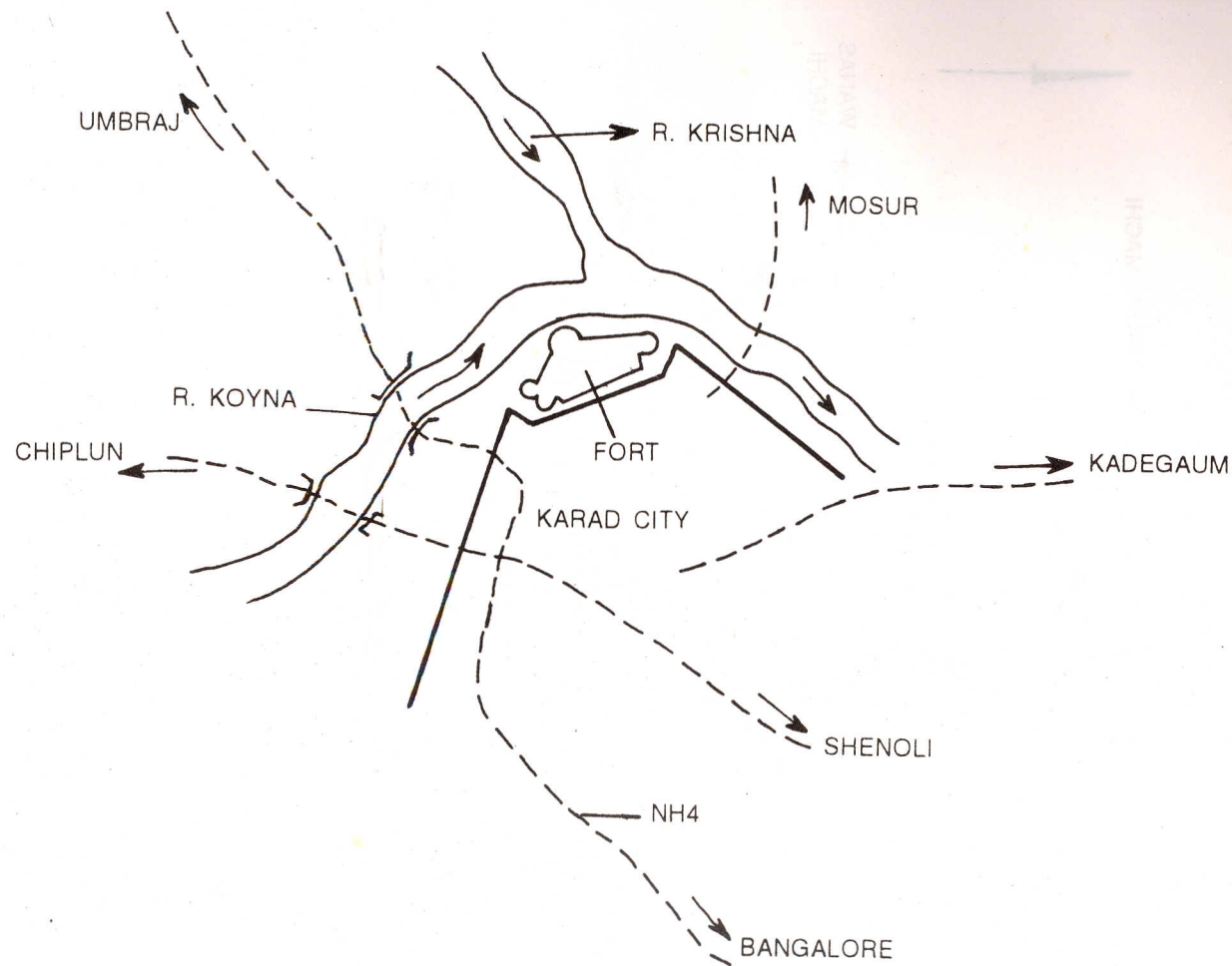


Fig. 115 : Fort Karad Location

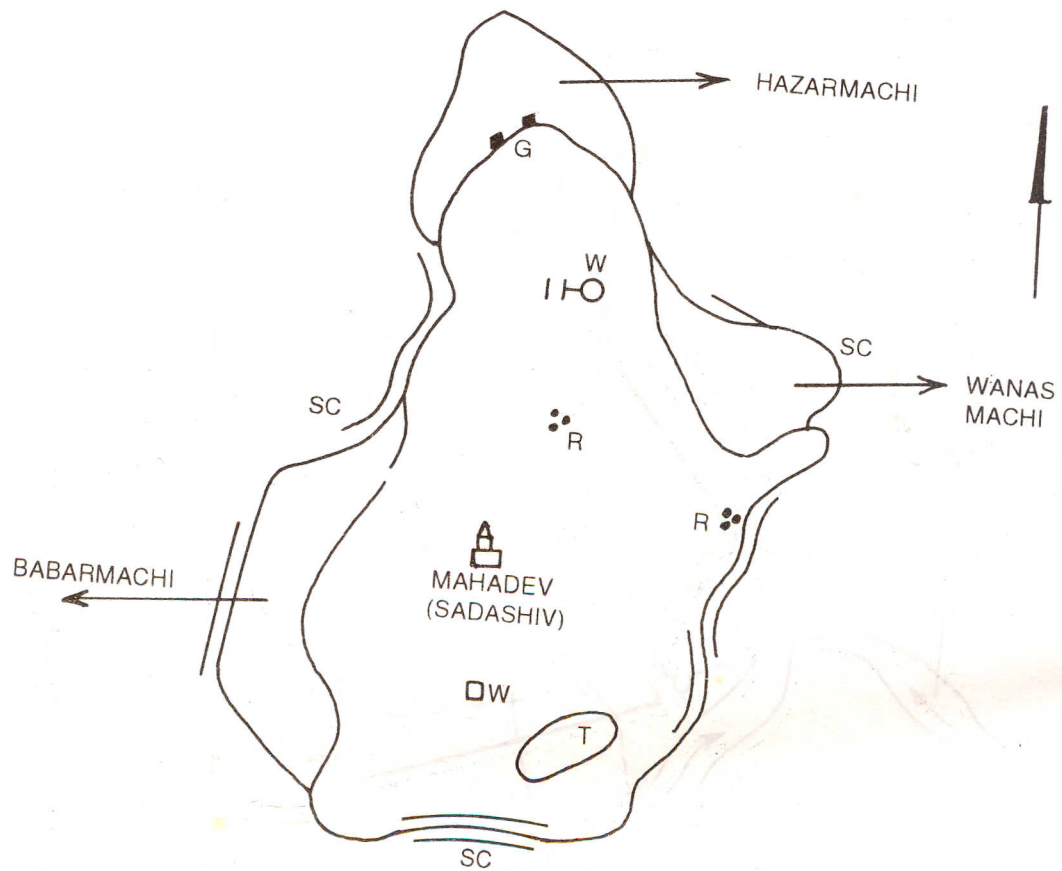


Fig. 116 : Sadashivgad

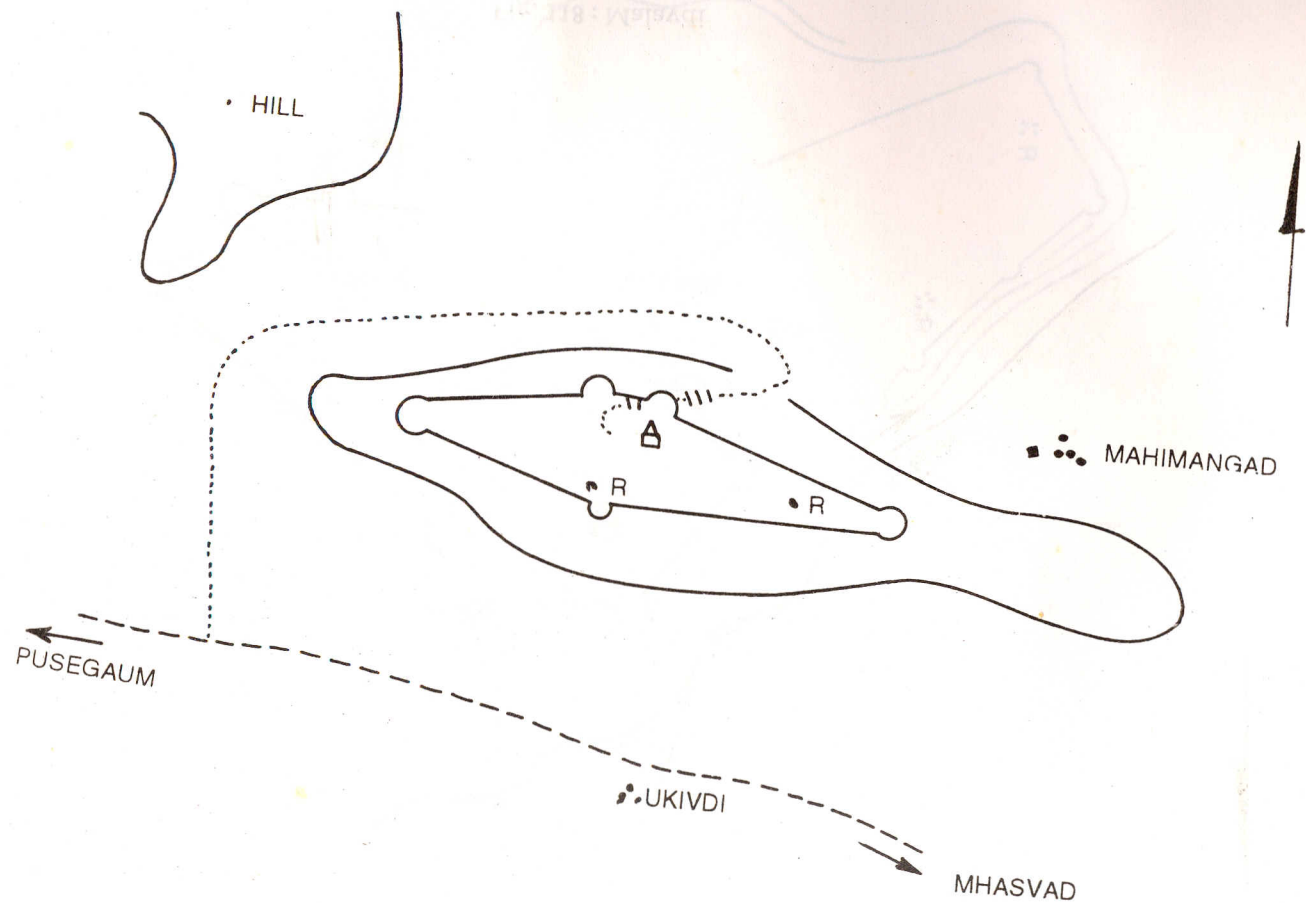


Fig. 117 : Fort Mahimangad

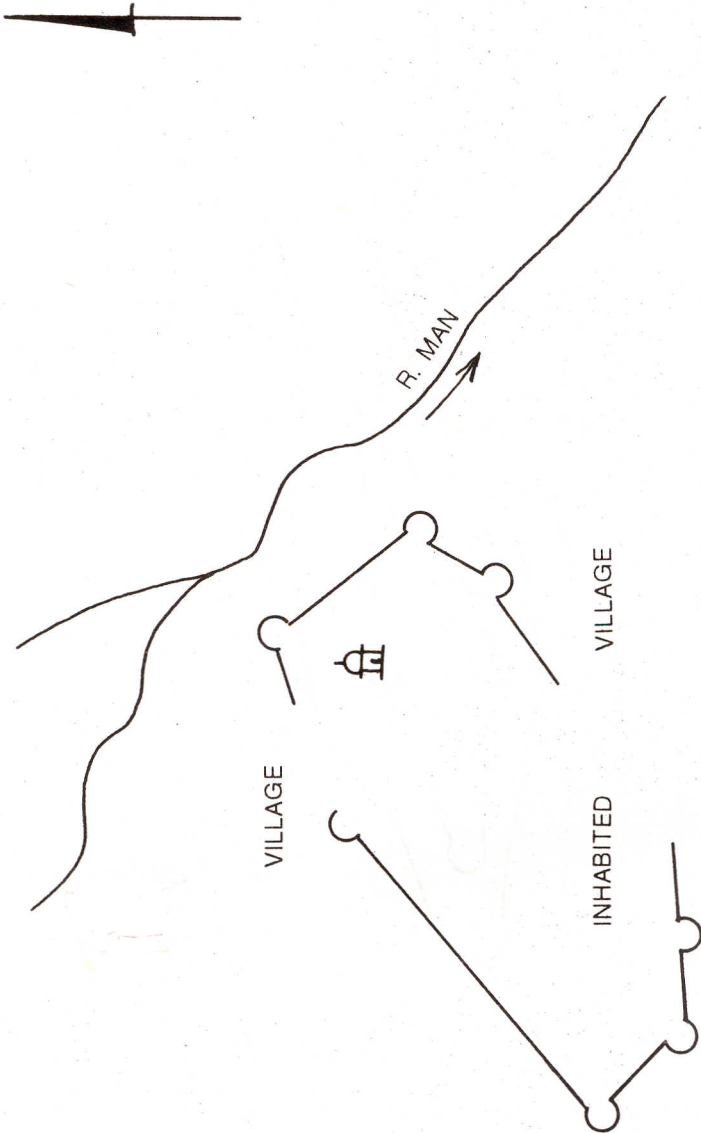


Fig. 118 : Malavdi

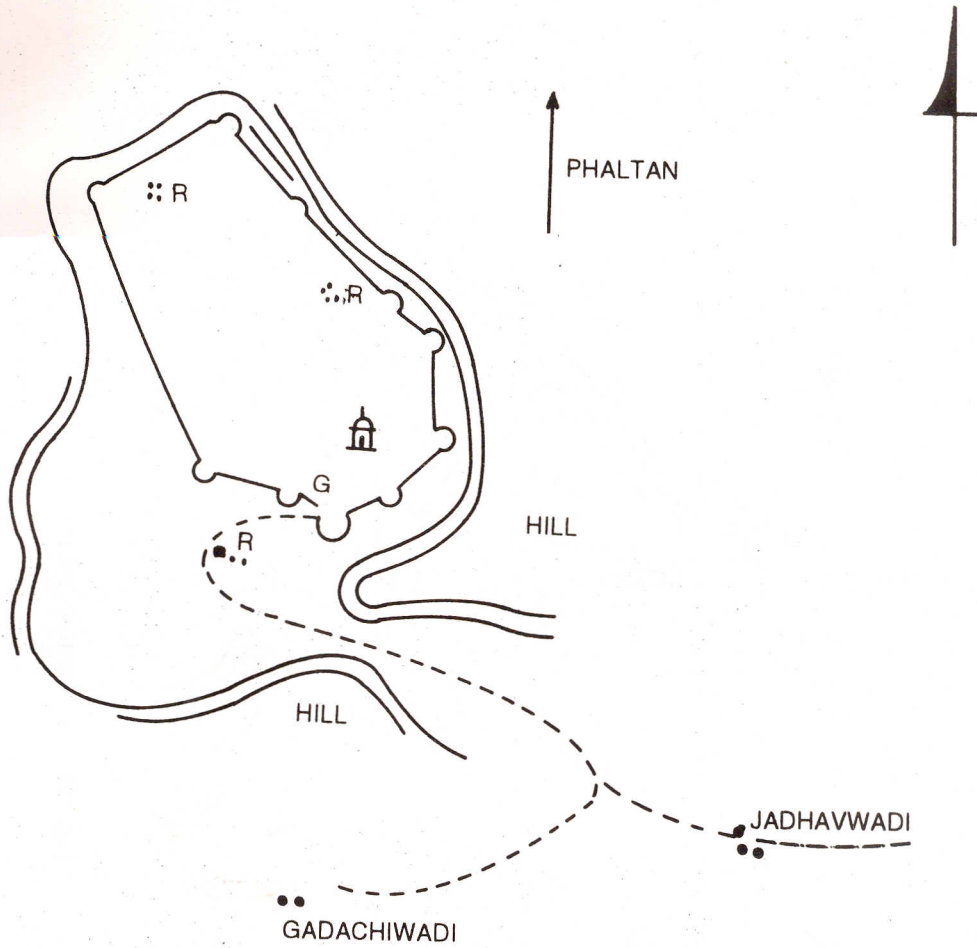


Fig. 119 : Fort Varugad

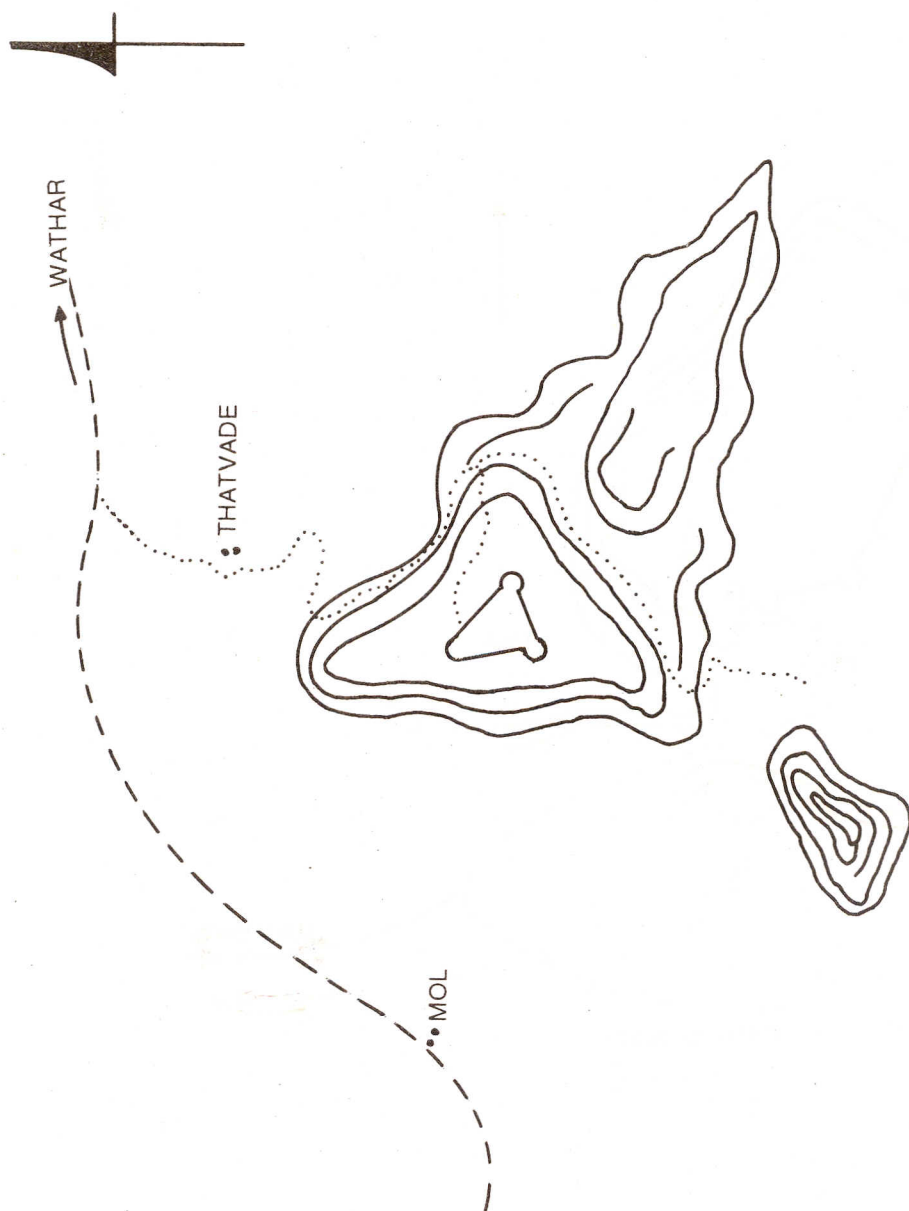


Fig. 120 : Fort Santoshgad Location

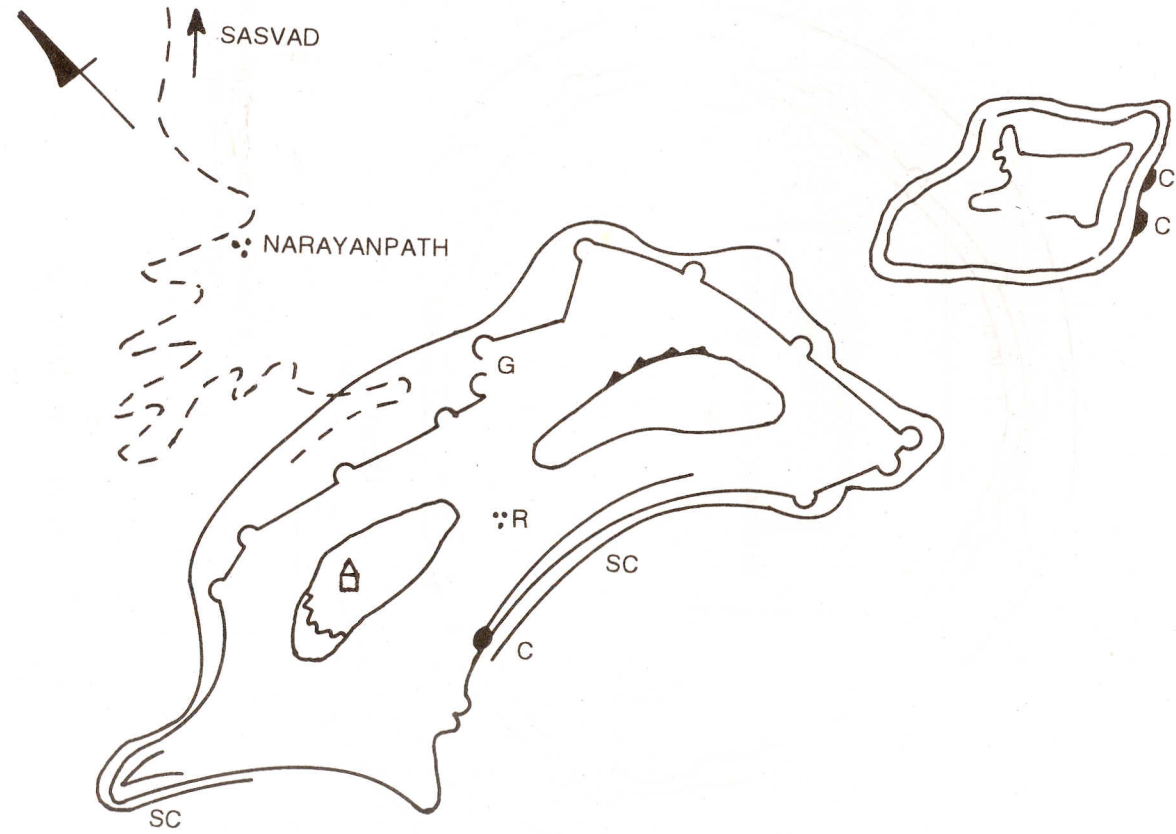
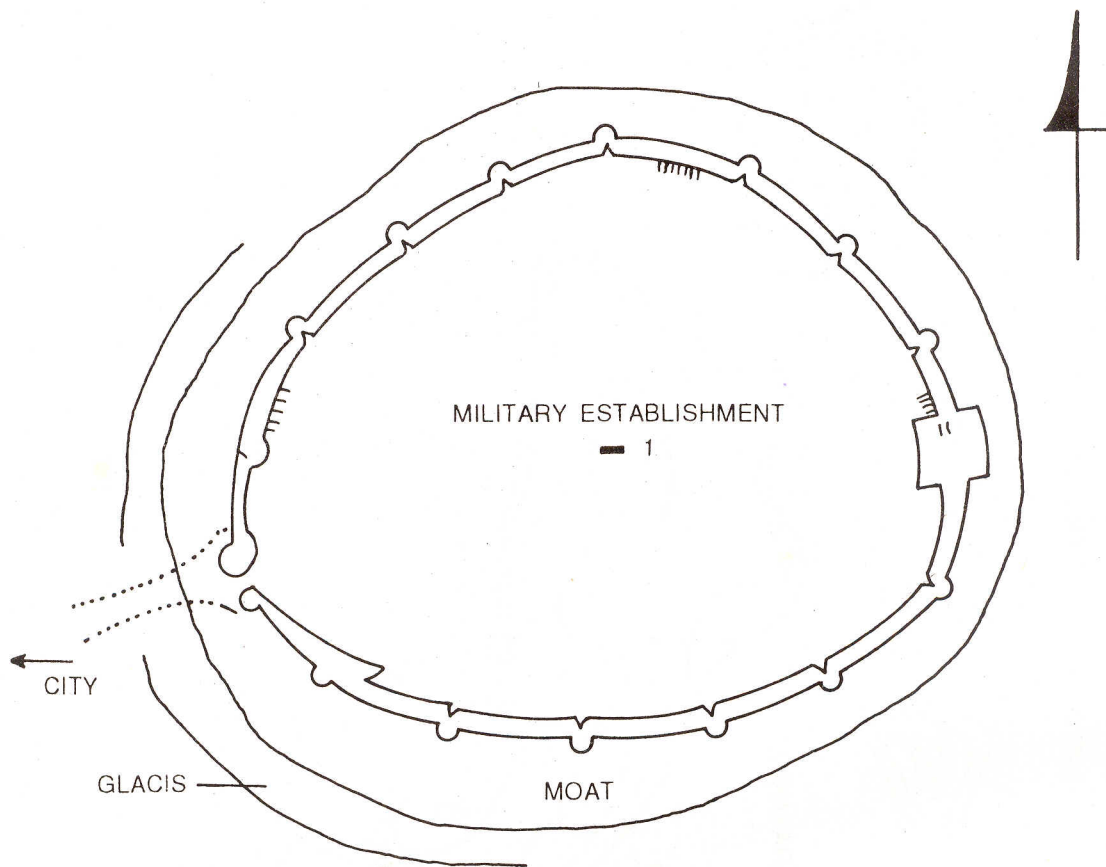


Fig. 121 : Forts Purandar and Eajragad



1. BARRACK WHERE NATIONAL LEADERS WERE IMPRISONED

Fig. 122 : Fort Ahmadnagar

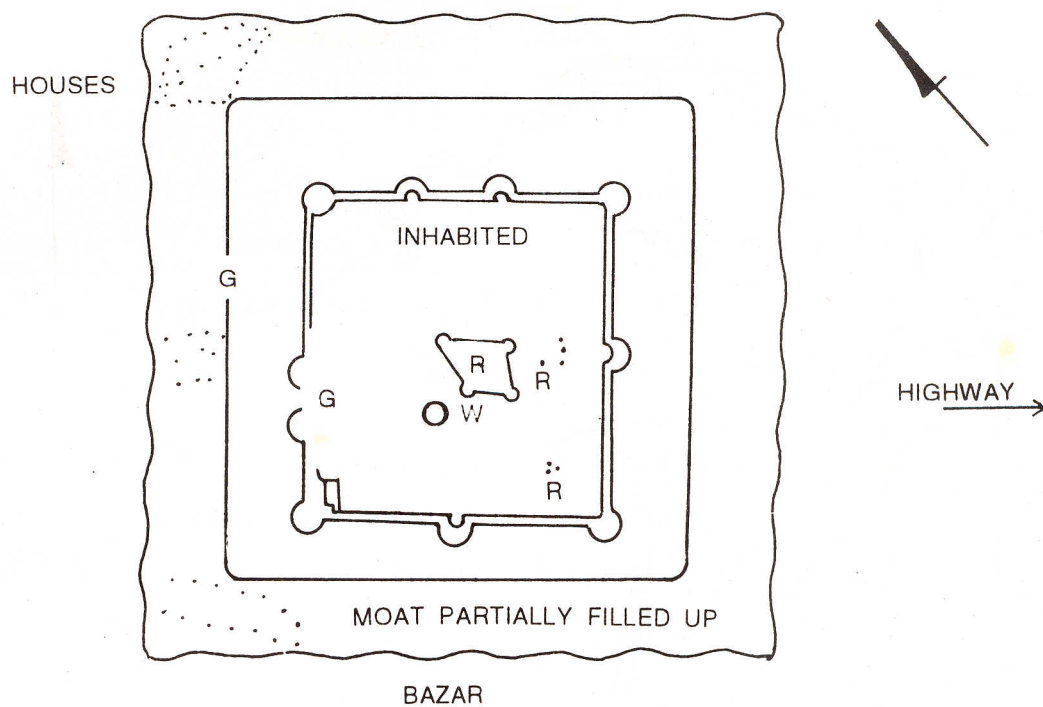


Fig. 123 : Fort Parola

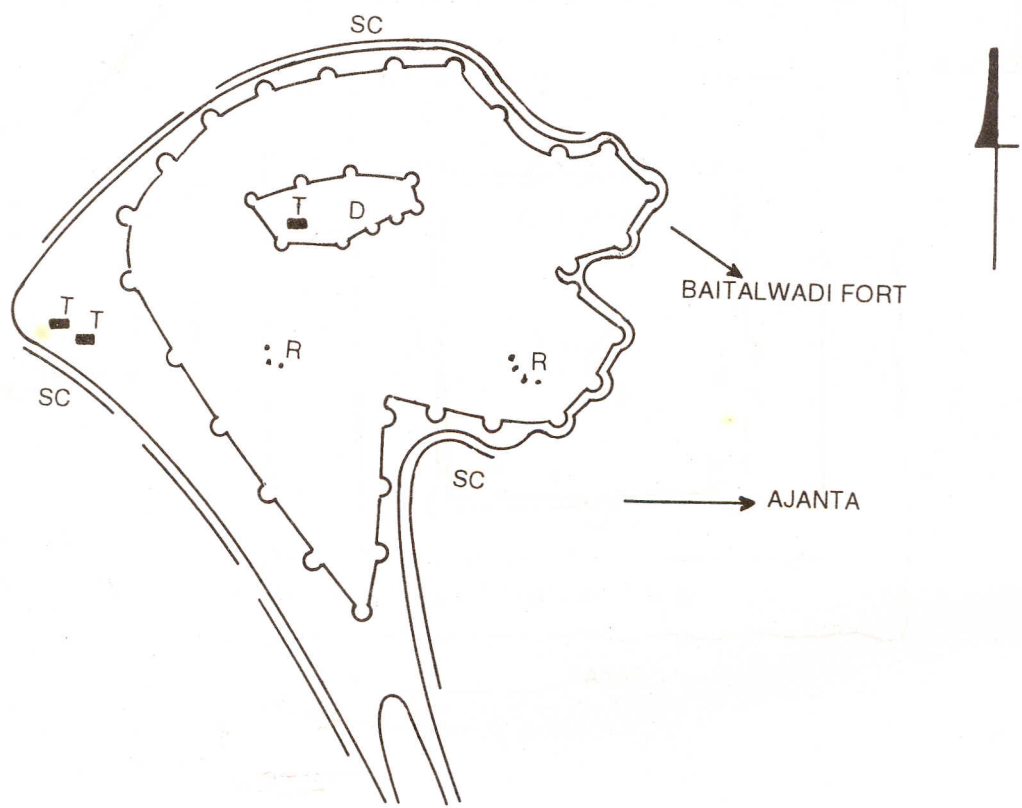


Fig. 124 : Fort Abhasgad



Fig. 125 : Fort Assaye Environs

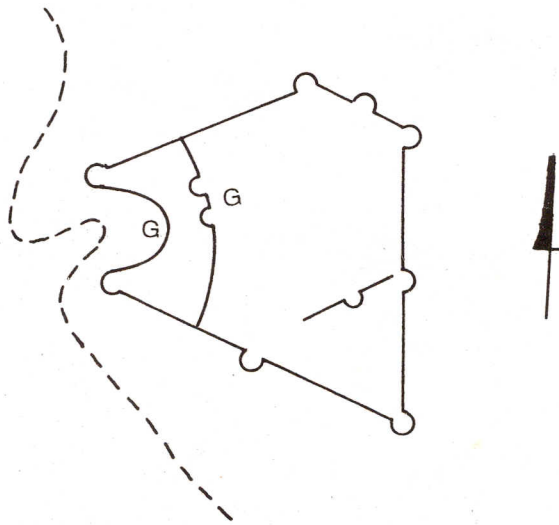


Fig. 126 : Fort Baitulwadi

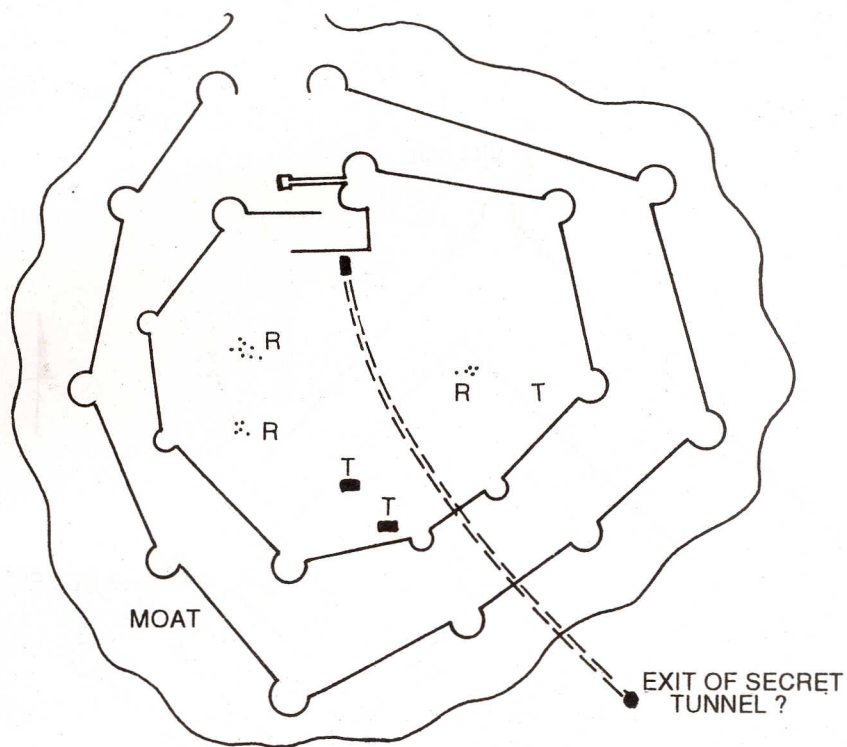


Fig. 127 : Fort Dharur

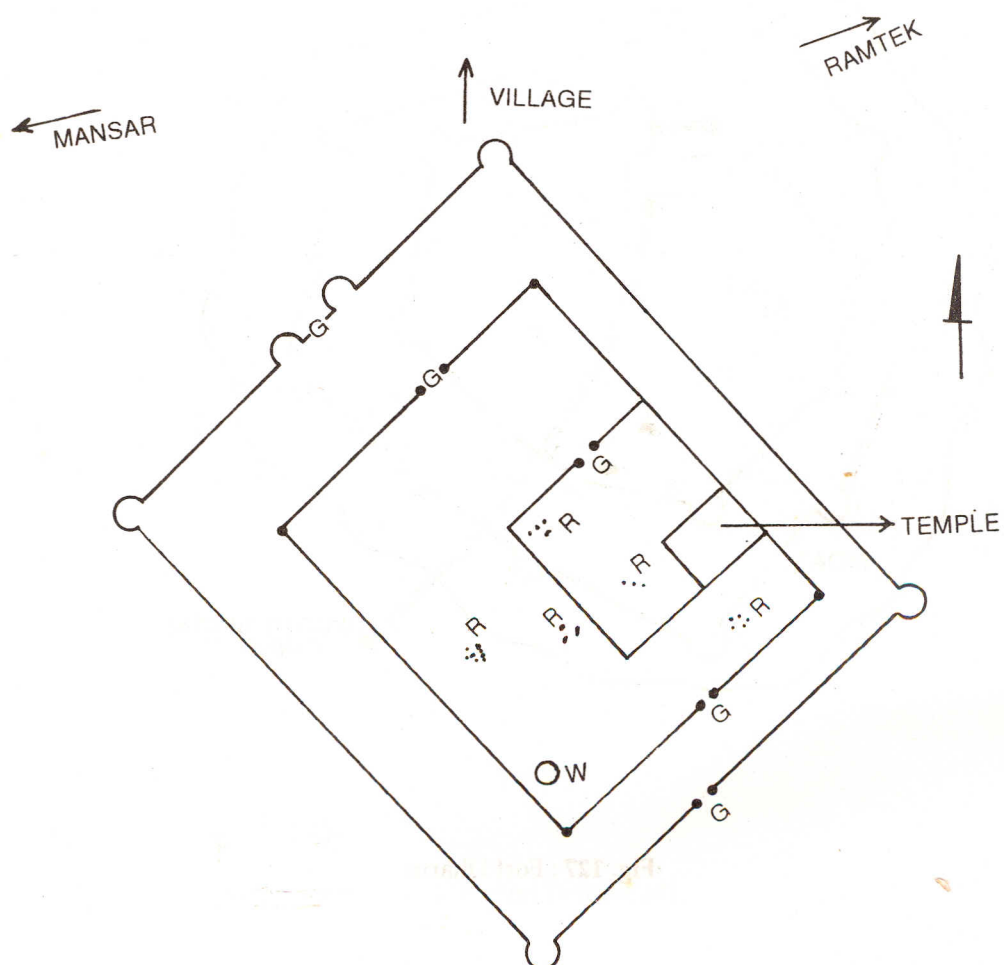


Fig. 128 : Fort Nagardhan

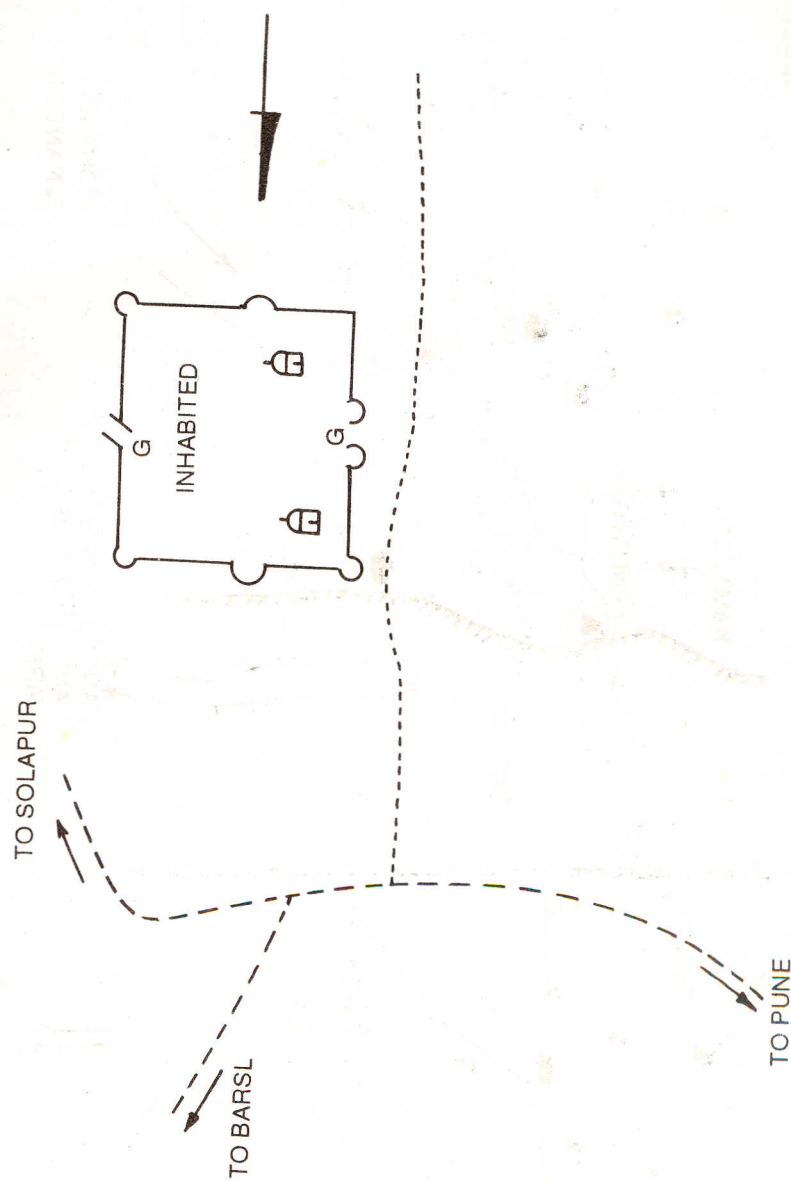


Fig. 129 : Fort Tambhurni

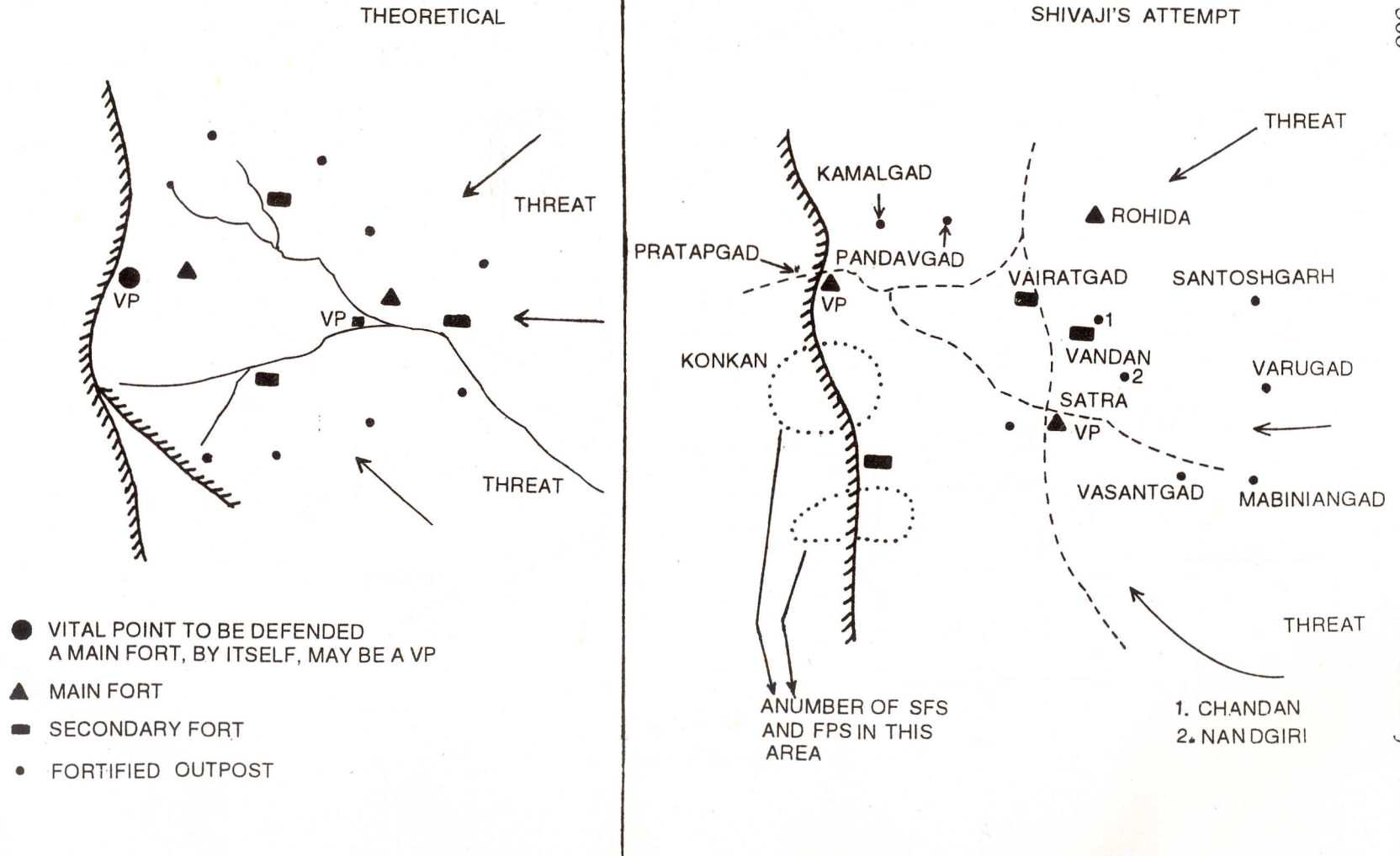
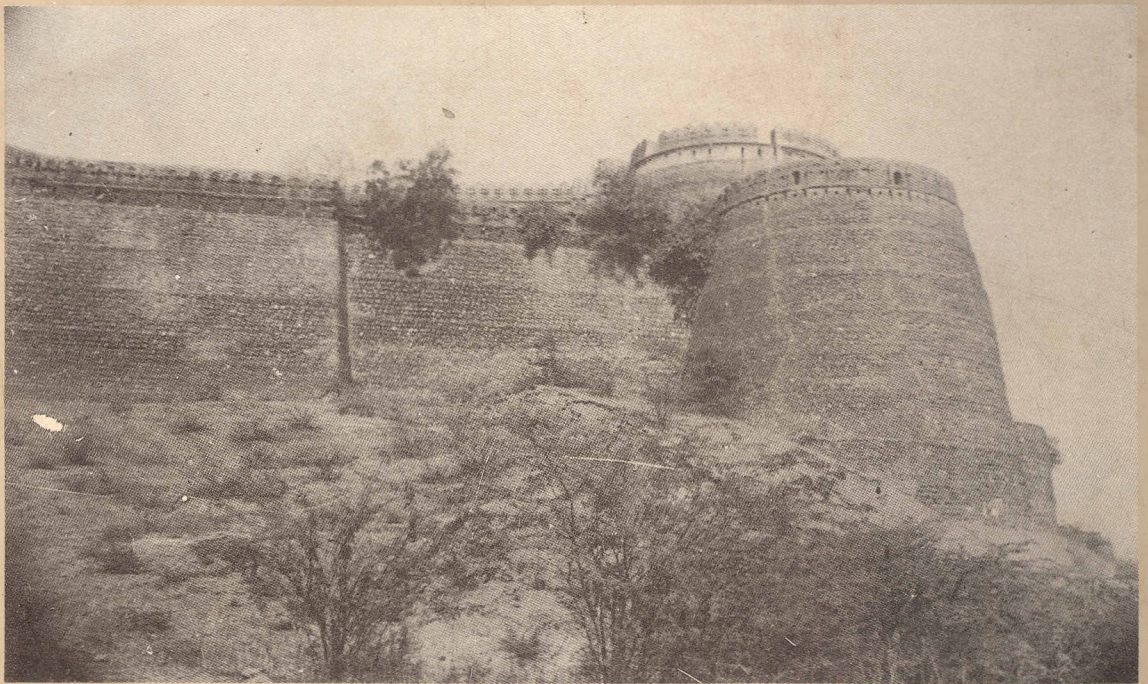


Fig. 130 : To Illustrate Defence in Depth

Dr. M.S. Naravane retired from the Indian Air Force in the rank of Wing Commander while Commanding an Air Force Station. He served in almost all types of Air Force units and had varied experience which included a tenure of three years as the Assistant Air Attache at the Indian Embassy at Paris. His love for sports (cricket, hockey and golf) did not, however, detract him from intellectual pursuits embracing a wide variety of subjects. He took to writing even while in Service and some of his articles on Anglo-Maratha wars were published in the, then, Infantry Journal.

After retirement he served in Industries in various capacities at a senior level and did a short assignment in Kenya. As a Visiting Faculty he taught at the M.B.A. level at the Pune University for a few years and now undertakes only short assignments and coaches candidates for the N.D.A., and I.A.S. aspirants.

All along, his deep interest in Indian Medieval History, especially Maratha history, grew unabated. He travelled all over Maharashtra on a Kinetic Honda visiting many forts and other places of historical interest. It led him to research and a Doctorate awarded by the Pune University, and finally to this book. His forthcoming projects include "A Short History of Baglan" and another book based on his recent travels (again on his Kinetic and alone) in Rajasthan.



APH PUBLISHING CORPORATION

5, Ansari Road, Darya Ganj
New Delhi-110 002